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A NEW

METHOD

Of CURING the

VENEREAL DISEASE

Much safer and easier than any hitherto used,

WITH A

CONFUTATION

OF THE

Old *Hypotehses* concerning that *Distemper*,

To which is added,

A Relation of two Extraordinary CURES of another Nature, perform'd by the AUTHOR:

Together with a learned *Dissertation* concerning them.

The Whole Approved and Recommended by several of the most Eminent Physicians of PARIS.

Done out of the FRENCH of

Monsr. BOÜEZ DE SIGOGNE, *M.D.*

Counsellor and Physician in ordinary to the *French* King in the Company of his Majesty's SWISS Guards.

LONDON:

Printed for J. CLARK under the Piazza of the

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THE

APPROBATION

OF

Dr. J. BAPT. DODART,

Counsellor of State in Ordinary, and First Physician to his Majesty *Lewis* XV.

THE Author of this Book acquaints us with a new Method of curing the Venereal Disease, *by Remedies, which will adapt themselves to the Temper and Disposition of a Patient; working either by Perspiration or by Urine, but more generally by Stool; and which cure him radically, without exposing him to the dangerous Inconveniences of Salivation. He relates several happy Experiments of it, try'd in part in the Presence of some eminent Physicians. His discoveries are founded upon the most Solid reasoning, on the different Ways of Secretion, and the Structure of those Organs that are subservient thereto. He enlarges on the Cause not only of that Disease, but likewise of all chronick Distempers; and proves the Necessity of using in all such Cases, Remedies drawn from Metals and Minerals, and their Preference to those which are drawn from Vegetables. This Work cannot fail of meeting with publick Applause, for as much as it is full of Erudition, and containeth a great Variety of Reflections, no less useful, than they are agreeably treated of.*

The APPROBATION of Dr. *Boudin*, Counſellor of State, firſt Phyſician in Ordinary to his Majeſty, and late Dean of the Faculty of *Paris*.

I Have always look't upon two things, as the principal Obſtacles to the Progreſs of Phyſick, the one is the general Fondneſs Men have for Syſtems, which oblige young Phyſicians to ſpend a great deal of Time, which might be better beſtow'd in making uſeful Obſervations, and fills their Imagination with well contriv'd Fables, but of no Uſe towards the Cure of their Patients, which ought to be the chief and only end of all their Studies and Labours. The other is not only their Neglect of, but likewiſe their diſlike and repugnance both to the Search of new Remedies, and to the Application of them in their Practices when ever they have been diſcover'd by others more Courageous and Diligent then they.

A Treatiſe that oppoſes two ſuch Prejudices, cannot chuſe but be very uſeful; the Author here proves irrefragably, that Hypocrates *has rejected all Syſtems as uſeleſs, that he might the better apply himſelf to Obſervations, and the Study of proper Medecines. That which our Author has diſcover'd, for the Cure of* Venereal Diſeaſes, *and propoſes the Uſe of to other Phyſicians, ſeems to me infinitely preferable to Mercury, as commonly uſed. Every Body knows what Accidents may be juſtly fear'd, from Salivation procur'd by Friction; as well as what the Patients ſuffer during Thirty or Forty Days Application of Mercury. But our Author's Remedy doth never raiſe a Salivation; it only purges in the gentleſt Manner without Gripings or Danger, and one beholds with Pleaſure the moſt dreadful Symptoms diſappear,*

pear, without the Patient's ſuffering the leaſt Pain, or being hinder'd from his uſual Buſineſs, when his Remedy has been adminiſtred at proper Times and Seaſons. This is what I have ſeen ſeveral Inſtances of in Patients whoſe Cure I have attended from beginning to end, and this is the Teſtimony I owe to Truth. Given at *Paris Nov.* 21 1720.

BOUDIN.

The APPROBATION of Dr. *de Chirac*, Counſellor of State; Phyſician to his Majeſty; late Profeſſor of the Univerſity of *Montpelier*, Superintendant of the Royal Botanic Garden, and firſt Phyſician to his Royal Highneſs the Duke of *Orleans*.

THE Cure of Venereal Diſeaſes *is liable to ſo many Inconveniences, both from the Inſufficiency of the greateſt Part of thoſe who undertake it, and by Reaſon of the grievous Sufferings they expoſe their Patients to, who follow the old Method of curing. The Time it requires to perform it, is ſo long, and a Patients withdrawing himſelf for the ſpace of forty or fifty Days, during which Time he muſt keep his Chamber, is ſo troubleſome and often ſo ſuſpicious, ſpecially for Perſons whoſe Stations oblige them to have a more than ordinary regard for their Reputation, that we can never ſufficiently applaud thoſe who have ſpent their Time and Labour in the Diſcovery and Improvement of ſuch Remedies, as can thoroughly cure thoſe who are afflicted with it, and free them from all the Inconveniences, and Diſorders that attend the Ordinary Way of curing it.*

Several

Several Experiments have convinc'd me that the Remedy which Dr. Bouez de Sigogne, M. D. *has by his great Labour and Industry discover'd, has all those Qualities in an eminent manner, and that it is even able to repair the Faults of the most common Specific, I mean of Mercury by Friction. He has cur'd Diseases which either Salivations could not remove, or having done so, have left some very grievous and suspicious Impressions on the Organs. What I have seen of the good Effects of his Remedy, obliges me to do him Justice upon this, as well as upon several other Occasions. As for the Book he has written, with a design to inform the World of the discovery of his Remedy, &c. I can only say that it well deserves to be read, and sufficiently shows that the Author has not wholly confin'd his Labour and Study to the Management of his Elaboratory.* Given at *Paris Sept.* 16, 1721.

CHIRAC.

The Approbation of Dr. *Bassat*, Physician in Ordinary to the late Duke of *Berry*.

THOSE Books which contribute either to the Ease or Preservation of Life, can never be made too Publick. This which treats of a new Method to cure the Venereal Disease *is of that Nature, and how prejudic'd soever I was, that Mercury alone was able to root out that dreadful Distemper, I have at length been forc'd to yield to the Proofs I have seen of the Excellency and Efficacy of* Dr. Bouez de Sigogne's *Remedy, and the Testimony I ought to bear to Truth, obliges me to say that I have, upon several Occasions seen the happy Success of it, not only with Respect to several Persons*

whom

whom the Venereal Poiſon had ſo far deſtroy'd that they were judged incurable; but likewiſe with Regard to many others, who had fail'd ſeveral Times of being cur'd by the old Way; and what is moſt wonderful is that thoſe Patients who have made Uſe of it, have been ſo far from being expos'd to the frequent Accidents, which are obſerv'd to attend the Operation of Mercury, that they have been ſtill able to attend their Buſineſs, with as much freedom as if they had been in perfect Health; and as we can never ſufficiently commend the Authors of ſuch uſeful diſcoveries, I can ſays, to the Praiſe of Dr. Sigogne, and of his Book, that whoever reads it with due Attention, will find in it ſure and ſolid Principles for the ſafe and uſeful Practice of Phyſick. Such is my Opinion. Given at *Paris* Nov. 15, 1721.

BASSAT.

The Approbation of the General CENSOR of the *Faculty*.

I. Under-written, Reader, Royal Profeſſor, and Regent-Doctor of the Faculty of Paris, and Royal Cenſor of Books, have examin'd by order of my Lord Chancellor, this Manuſcript entitled *A new Method to cure the Venereal Diſeaſe, &c.* It is a great Error to think that amongſt thoſe Diſeaſes which Mankind is liable to, there ſhould be any the Study of which ſhould be leſs noble, and to the Cure of which Phyſicians ſhould think it a Diſgrace to apply themſelves. Such a Thought, which is nothing elſe but a Device of Ignorance, has nevertheleſs been favour'd by ſeveral Phyſicians, who being ignorant of their Duty, and of that which is the Glory of their charitable and extenſive Profeſſion, dare to look upon the

Cure of Venereal Diſeaſes, *as a thing unworthy of their Care. Happily for the Publick good, the Author of the Book we are now recommending, has been able to free himſelf from ſo contagious an Error. The eaſy Method which by his Labours and Study he has diſcover'd on this Subject, is ſo adapted to the Operations of Nature, that it is infinitely above all other Remedies that have hitherto been uſed in ſuch Caſes. He proves that agreeableneſs by ſolid reaſoning, ſuch as affords him an occaſion to treat of it with a great deal of learning, and to enlarge upon the various Qualities of Vegetable and Mineral Medecines, and the divers Modifications the latter are ſuſceptible of, and upon the Reſiſtance of the former to all the Efforts of Art; on the Manner in which the Remedies drawn from the one and the other act upon the Structure of our Organs; and upon the Mechaniſm of all the Evacuations of our Bodies, whether in Sickneſs or in Health. This Variety of reflections makes up a Collection of Chymical, Anatomical and Phyſical Obſervations, the Solidity of which join'd to an eloquent and correct diction, makes the reading of the Book very inſtructive and agreeable. The Author is not contented with ſuch reaſoning, in order to prove the Uſefulneſs of this Method, but backs it with Experience, and without Oſtentation recites many Inſtances of the extraordinary Cures he has perform'd by it; which being very certain and well atteſted, do equally commend the Phyſician and his Remedy.* Given at *Paris Nov.* 22, 1731.

ANDRY.

A NEW METHOD OF CURING THE *Venereal Diſeaſe*, &c.

THE various Hypotheſes which Men have invented, in order to account for the Operations of Nature, thoſe agreeable Romances, may be juſtly eſteemed one of the firſt and principal Cauſes of the little Improvements that have hitherto been made in Phyſick. This original Defect has ſpread itſelf from one Age to another, from the *Greeks* to our Times. The *Trituration* of *Erafiſtratus*, the *Subſtantial Forms*, which have been brought from the Schools of the *Peripatetics* into the Colleges of Phyſicians; the *Four Qualities* of *Galen*; the *Acids* and *Alcali* of *Tachenius*; the *Fermentation* of *Willis*; the *Archæus* of *Van Helmont* have ſo confounded the Art, of itſelf

so difficult and intricate, that we cannot but think ourselves extremely oblig'd to such Persons, who, by an indefatigable Industry and Application, have endeavoured to rescue a Profession, so useful and necessary to Mankind, from all those vain and whimsical Notions, so foreign and distant from the Simplicity of those Laws, which Nature follows in her Operations: Notions altogether pernicious and unsatisfactory, which we are every moment ready to depart from. It may be justly affirmed of the Authors of those imaginary Systems, that they call in question what they see with their Eyes, that they may guess at what cannot be seen, or observ'd, and instead of framing their Notions from the Operations of Nature, they would force her to act only according to their Conceptions. Their Mind once strongly prepossess'd with a favourite Hypothesis, makes every thing subservient to it. Doth a Patient complain of intolerable Pains; the *Equilibrium* of *Trituration* is spoiled or obstructed; the *Harmony* between the *Four Qualities*, Hot and Cold, Dry and Moist, is lost; the *Acid* prevails over the *Alcali*, or the *Alcali* over the *Acid*; the *Fermentation* of the Humours, like a strong Wine boiling in the Vessels, has set the whole Body on Fire, by reason of the Explosions of the sulphureous Parts of the Blood, which cause all those irregular Motions in the sick Persons; the *Archæus* is irritated, and will not be appeased, but by the Application of some powerful *Alcali*.

Thus it is that these Authors trifle with Nature, and the Credulity of Mankind; for a Man had need of a great deal of Faith, to give into these Whimsies. But the great *Hippocrates* was far wiser and better acquainted with Nature's Secrets, therefore has he not had his equal hitherto, nobody having follow'd his Principles. The Reputation of being an Author, or Inventer of a new System, has misled the Writers of all Ages; no Wonder then if they come so short of this great Master, that no one of 'em can be compar'd to him. But what Secret had this sublime Genius to attain to so eminent a Degree of Knowledge? None but that of freeing himself from the Tyranny of those Systems that were as much in Vogue in his Days, as they are in ours;

ours; by an exact following of Nature, and examining her in all her various Ways, and Shapes, in which She did appear to him. He understood the Hypotheses of his Time, which made him reject them as vain and useless. It is, says he, (*lib. de vet. Medecin.*) neither Heat nor Cold, Dry nor Moist, that cause the Distempers incident to humane Bodies: *Neque enim siccum, neque humidum, & neque calidum, neque frigidum, neque aliud quidpiam putaverunt primi inventores hominem ledere.* But what is it then that can disturb the Animal Oeconomy? It is, continueth he, the Bitter, the Salt, the Sweet, the Acid, the Sharp, the Unsavoury, and an infinite Multitude of other Savours; whilst these keep an exact Proportion one with another, the Body is in perfect Health; which cannot be impair'd until some one or more of them prevail over the rest, and cease to keep a due Proportion and Harmony amongst themselves. *Inest enim in Homine & amarum, & salsum, & dulce, & acidum, & acerbum, & fluidum, & alia infinita omnigenas facultates habentia, copiamque & robur; atque hæ quidem juxta se inter se temperatæ, neque conspicuæ sunt, neque hominem ledunt; ubi vero quid horum secretum fuerit, atque hoc ipsum in seipso fuerit, tunc & conspicuum est, & hominem ledit.* This is the Doctrine of *Hypocrates*, which we may justly call the Key of Nature. Setting therefore aside all other Hypotheses, let us follow these Principles which are those of Nature herself. Let us endeavour to find out proper Remedies to restore these Qualities or Savours to their primitive State; since it is their Disorder, which brings our Diseases upon us. Let us apply ourselves to recover their Order, by Medicines fit and proper to restore to their right Temperature those Humours, which were either too bitter, or too sharp, too salt, or too sower. I own this to be the proper Work of Nature, and not the direct and positive Effect of Medicines; but these serve to remove those accidental Obstacles, which disturb Nature in her Operations, that thus disentangled, and restor'd to her natural and full Power, she may remove those Disorders, that did disturb and oppress her. The World will see hereafter, that the Success I have met with has convinced me of it; that I have been fortunate

enough to have found out one of those happy Remedies, which can in very little time safely and agreeably procure Health, by destroying those cruel and stubborn Diseases, which in the Opinion of almost all the Physicians, pass for incurable. This Remedy hath cost me a vast deal of Pains and Study, but they have at length been blest with the desired Success.

Neither are Hypotheses the only Obstacle to the Improvement of Physick; Reasoning, though useful and necessary to discover and distinguish one Distemper from another, and their different Degrees, has nevertheless been attended with this Inconvenience: Let a Young Gentleman spend his Life in the Study of those Authors, which are the most celebrated for good Reasoning, he comes easily to fancy himself an able Physician, and superior to the rest, in Proportion to his Strength and Capacity this way. But are Patients to be cur'd by mere force of Arguments? True it is, that without Reasoning a Man cannot cure his Patients, but then he must reason justly, and thence proceed to the Application of proper Remedies. These Philosophic Physicians are perpetually mistaken. The true Knowledge of Nature escapes them, because they don't consult her. They are amaz'd to find that Nature has not operated according to the Conclusions they had drawn from their own Principles. They do nevertheless prescribe according to these Conclusions. No Wonder then if the Success is seldom answers to much Learning, and such deep and subtle Reasoning. This indeed is an excellent Way to procure the Admiration and Esteem of those that hear them; but a very indifferent one to cure their poor Patients. *Hippocrates* has defin'd a good Physician, not a Man that can argue well, but one that is *Medendi peritus*, that knows how to cure Diseases effectually.

The third Obstacle to the Progress of Physick, is, on the one Hand, the Indolence which is natural to Mankind, and on the other, the vast Extent of the *Materia Medica*. What Likelihood is there, that the Life of Man, short as it is, should be sufficient for such a Search, which that of all Men of all Ages put together would not be able to accomplish? Satisfy'd with such a strong and convincing Argument,

ment, they content themſelves with ſtudying thoſe Diſcoveries, that have been tranſmitted to them by their Predeceſſors, whether by Writing or otherwiſe; they take their Word for them, and apply at a Venture, as they often did, the ſame Remedies, but with ſmall Succeſs. This is the Courſe which Men generally follow with Reſpect to Arts and Sciences. If by chance there happens to appear a Man of a more ſublime and penetrating Genius, one that ſoars above the reſt, what Pains doth it coſt him before he can perſuade the World to reliſh his Diſcoveries. *Aquapendente* dreading the Malice of the Inquiſition, did not dare to divulge in *Italy* his new Doctrine of the Circulation of the Blood, which he had learn'd F. *Paul* the Monk; he found himſelf obliged to communicate it only privately to Dr. *Harvey*, who was then his Diſciple; but leſt the Doctor, being returned into *England*, ſhould aſſume to himſelf the Honour of this noble Diſcovery, as he actually did, he thought it proper at the ſame time to communicate it to the *Engliſh* Embaſſador then at *Venice*: But the Embaſſador being wholly taken up with other Matters, let *Harvey* alone, who yet did not fail to meet with very great Oppoſition even in *England*, a Country bleſs'd with Freedom and Liberty, if ever any was. *Galilæo* was kept five Years cloſe Priſoner in the Inquiſition, for having maintained the *Copernican* Syſtem. Neither could he recover his Freedom, till he had ſolemnly recanted it. Pope *Zachary* condemned as Heretics, all thoſe who affirmed that there were any *Antipodes*: The *Spaniards* found the Advantage of not adhering to the Pope's Deciſion. What Oppoſition did not *Des Cartes* meet with, for having dar'd to inform the World of ſome groſs Errours, which had been current till his Time, in ſeveral Parts of Natural Philoſophy? He was an Atheiſt, and deſerv'd to be burnt at a Stake. How long was it before the Uſe of Emeticks could be admitted in Phyſick? Condemn'd as it was by an Act of Parliament as a dangerous Poiſon, we had been at this Day deprived of the Benefit of ſo Excellent a Remedy, had it not been attended with wonderful Succeſs, in ſaving the Life of the late King *Lewis* XIVth.

As Men of what Climate soever they be, are generally endowed with the same Temper and Genius; what Pains have the *Europeans* been forc'd to take, to undeceive the *Chinoyes*, who, fond of their Erroneous Astronomical Observations, could not be induced to believe, that they had been so long and so much mistaken, or that the *Europeans*, endow'd with a Superior Knowledge had reason'd more justly. This Distemper of the Mind has infected Men of all Sciences in general. Does a Physician apply himself wholly to the Cure of any Distemper, or labour to find out either a new Method or a new Medicine, a Number of his Brethren are ready to cry out, a Mountebank, an Impostor! The Letters of *Guy Patin*, a Man otherwise of some merit, are full with such Imputations against Emeticks! It must be own'd that a Man had need of a great deal of Courage and more than Ordinary Strength of Mind, to Encounter and Conquer the Prejudices of Men. God has already so far favour'd me, as to enable me to find out one of the most useful Medicines to Mankind, and will I hope grant me Courage enough at the Expence of my Life and Fortune to defend it, assur'd as I am of its Efficacy from its extraordinary Success.

The Extent of the *Materia Medica* doth vastly exceed that of our Knowledge. What new *Solomon* could unravel all the various Virtues of Vegetables? what Labours, what Fatigues, what expence has such a Search cost, and to what Purpose has all this prov'd? M. *Du Hamel*, the greatest Genius the last Age produc'd, and Father to the famous M. *Duhamel*, first Physician to his present Majesty *Lewis* XV, has exhausted all the Force of Industry and Perseverance which Man could be capable of, under the Eye and Direction of the Academy of Sciences, to force Nature to disclose those hidden Secrets, and Treasures that are shut up in Plants for the Preservation of Health; above 1500 Plants turn'd all manner of Ways, have only serv'd to discourage the Gentleman who did so vigorously attempt this Enquiry, and to oblige him to relinquish that pursuit. We labour under a moral Impossibility of going further, and if by chance a Man should be able to

finish

finiſh ſuch a Search, we muſt confeſs ingenuouſly, that but a ſmall Advantage would thereby accrue, either to the Theory or the Practice of Phyſick: It has been obſerved long ago that Chymical Labour, and the Force of Fire, deſtroy the Medicinal Vertue of Plants and Animals. They ſpoil the juſt Proportion of their common Principles. An exact Doſe appointed by Nature will have ſome good Effect upon a Patient, whilſt that proportion laſts; but after it has been deſtroy'd by the Fire, thoſe Plants either ceaſe to be Medicinal, or elſe acquire ſome ſtrange Quality very different from that which they naturally had. *Senna*, for Example, is a very good Purge, if taken as we receive it at the Hands of Nature; but its Principles, *viz.* Sulphur, Water, Earth and Salt, being once ſeparated by Chymical Analyſis, they purge no more, neither ſeparated nor reunited. The Salt becomes Diuretick, the Sulphur purges not at all, or very little, and this too not without Gripings, and Danger of Inflammation. That great Man, juſt now mentioned, was ſo fully perſuaded that Fire ſpoils all, and produces new Compounds, that he never us'd any to analiſe his vegetables; but made Uſe of different Mixtures of Salts to extract Tinctures from them, notwithſtanding all which prudent Precautions, his Labours are become Uſeleſs; neither has Phyſick been any thing improv'd or enrich'd by them; but the Faculty hath contented it ſelf with retaining a very ſmall Number of Uſual Plants, which they had either receiv'd from barbarous Nations, ſuch as *Senna*, *Rhubarb*, *Mecoacum*, *Scamony*, *Sarſaparilla*, *Guacum*, *Jeſuits-Bark*, &c. or diſcover'd by mere Chance, as Mercury, *&c.* All this will ſerve to clear an important Queſtion, *viz.* whether Remedies drawn from Vegetables and Animals, are to be prefer'd to thoſe which are extracted from Mettals and Minerals; thoſe laſt ſeem in all reſpects to deſerve the Preference: Mens way of living eſpecially in great Cities, their ſtrong Liquors, the bad and fatal Uſe of which daily encreaſes; ſo many kinds of them unknown to our Anceſtours, and ſome of them made of Druggs brought from the furtheſt Parts of the World, ſuch a Number of Sauces toſs'd up with Ingredients fetcht from

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the remoteſt Climates, ſuch rich Diſhes, ſuch exquiſite Wines, the pernicious Art of Cooks, who may be juſtly call'd agreeable Poiſoners, a ſoft, effeminate, lazy, and almoſt lethargick Life, which the richer ſort of Men do give themſelves up to, joined to the moſt unruly Paſſions; all theſe put together, produce ſo many kinds of Diſeaſes, altogether new either in themſelves or their Cauſes, or by a new Concourſe of Symptoms, that one may boldly affirm, that old Phyſick Books, are of little or no Uſe, ſo greatly is the Shape of Diſeaſes altered; ſuch Degrees of Stubborneſs are they come to; that the ſimplicity of Ancient Preſcriptions is not ſtrong enough, to overcome the Obſtinacy of theſe new Monſters, deſign'd for the Deſtruction of Mankind; and may we not aſſign this as the true Cauſe why the Ancient Preparations with which *Hypocrates*, *Galen*, *Oribaſius*, *Aretæus*, *Trallianus*, &c. wrought ſuch wonderful Cures, are entirely ſet aſide and forgotten. Thoſe who make attentive Obſervations on the Miſeries which Men willfully bring upon themſelves, are made ſufficiently ſenſible of the Weakneſs of thoſe Medicines which our Anceſtours found ſo much good by. It is very well worth obſerving, that ever ſince the Diſcoveries of the fartheſt Parts of *Aſia* with their Riches, and of all *America* with her Treaſures, the *Europeans*, charm'd with the delightful Rarities of thoſe new Climates, (*ut Tiberim deſluxit Oronten*,) have began to ſeek for Remedies out of Mettals and Minerals, the Vegetable and the Animal kind not being powerful enough to eradicate thoſe Diſeaſes which have been cauſed by an inordinate Luxury, which has over-run all *Europe*, and which have their Original from thoſe Rarities and Riches which are brought from the *Indies*. Before their Diſcovery which happen'd in the Year 1494. the Uſe of Mercury, Antimony, Vitriol, &c. in Phyſick was althgether unknown. Never was Chymiſtry cultivated with greater Care than it has been ſince then, the Neceſſity of it never having been felt ſo much before. The Reaſon of this is plain: Both the *Aſiatick*, and *American*, *Indians*, as well as our Fore-fathers, did content themſelves with ſimple Druggs,

which

which their own Soil did furnish them with, and they are sufficient for them; neither do they willingly venture upon ours, I mean our Chymical Preparations, which they find too strong for them, and have no manner of need of; the plainness of their Food not breeding in them any Distempers attended with such fierce Symptoms, and so hard to be carried off. The Humours being overcharg'd with an excessive Quantity of the Alimental Sulphur, become near as viscous as the very Glew it self: The Salts throw the Membranes into Convulsions, their Quantity irritating the nervous kind. Inflammations necessarily follow. The Tonick Motion of the Solid Parts is interrupted, the Humours stagnate, and all the Animal Functions grow languid; from whence proceed such Obstructions all over the Body, as can hardly be overcome by the most active Remedies, against which their Strength and Volatility often prove ineffectual. But let us more fully explain this Matter.

There is no Distemper, whether Acute or Chronick, (the Plague and Pestilential kind excepted) but proceeds from the same Cause, that is to say, the thickning of the Liquids. For as those Liquors are in their first Original no more than Jellies of those Animals we feed upon, 'tis no wonder they are so apt to congulate. So long therefore as the Salts and Sulphurs of the Aliments swim in the Liquid, and those Salts and Sulphurs are separated, and kept in a kind of Fusion by the elastick Motion of the solid Parts, the Liquids have Liberty and Room enough to circulate through their Vessels, all the Functions are perform'd with ease, and the Body is in perfect Health; but 'tis soon alter'd, when the Motion of the Liquids either increases or decreases. The different degrees of thickness and thinness in the Blood, and Humours, as well as Sickness and Health depend upon the variation of these Motions, the more or less causing all the Difference; and the same Cause produces Symptoms accidentally different in acute and chronick Diseases; the Functions are more or less vigorous, and the Parts move with more or less Force and Swiftness: If the Symptoms are violent, an acute Distemper ensues; if they are less vehement, the Disease proves Chro-

nical; one single Instance will evince the Truth of this Doctrine. In Apoplexies the Blood is of an extraordinary Thickness: It is much thinner in a Dropsy and Epilepsy. The Fierceness of the Symptoms considerably increases according to the Parts in which these thickned Liquids are stagnated: In the Head they produce a Disease attended with Death, but when they disperse themselves from the Head into the Limbs, without diminishing of their Thickness, they cause the Palsy, under which a Man may linger some Years. The same Cause therefore is capable of producing an acute Distemper, or one that is not so. Milk, in proportion to the Strength of the Acids which are mixt with it, turns quicker or slower, and the Whey in which the Curd *subsides*, yields different Tastes: The same thing exactly, happens in the Blood, which is of the same Nature with Milk, and according to the Efficacity of the Heterogeneous Ferment, doth coagulate an hundred different Ways, and with more or less quickness. The Animal Functions exactly follow these differences, whence either slow or acute Distempers are produced, which by their Symptoms do plainly show the various Degrees and Characters of their Ferments, and are diversify'd according to the Contexture, Situation, and Figure of each part of the Body. The viciated Ferment, which causes the Head-ach in Fevers, being transfus'd into all other parts of the Body, causes in them more or less acute Pains, in proportion to their Hardness or Softness, or their Connexion with the other parts that are either nearer, or more remote from them. This is the Mechanism which is observed in acute Diseases, which likewise produces Chronical ones, all the Difference that is betwixt them being merely accidental. If the viciated Ferment be so very slow, that it can only display it self insensibly, and after several Months, and sometimes after several Years, the Tonick Motion of the Solid parts will exactly follow the Progress of that Ferment, which will begin to show it self. The Scurvy will afford us an Instance of this. Flesh salted or smok'd, the Sea Air, *&c.* infuse a kind of Brine into the Blood by little and little, which in time becomes acrimonious to such a degree, that like *Aqua fortis* it corrodes

rodes the very Fleſh and Bones. The Ptiſick follows the ſame Mechaniſm, although produced by another Cauſe: The Dropſy is the very ſame, with this difference only, that the Patient doth nevertheleſs languiſh a great while after the Diſſolution of the Blood; whereas in the Scurvy and Ptiſick its Seroſity becomes ſo ſharp, that it quickly brings a Man to his Grave. It is one of Nature's Laws, that our Liquors, being coagulated by a vitiated Ferment, ſhould be again diſſolv'd; (as may be obſerv'd in Milk) nevertheleſs they do not return to their primitive Nature. The Seroſity which follows ſuch a Diſſolution acquires new Savours variouſly vitiated; as the Whey, in which the Curd is diſſolv'd, is of a quite different Nature from the Milk. In Apoplexies the Humours are of a different Character from thoſe of the Scurvy and Ptiſick; being extravaſated in the Head, and not being able to looſen themſelves from the Veſſels which contain them, they overburthen and oppreſs, by their weight and Quantity, the principles of the vital Function, and by that means cauſe immediate Death; but if they can but get looſe from the Head, and get into the Limbs, they do there, by their Viſcoſity, produce the Palſy, which is generally without Pain; which is the Reaſon why ſome have judg'd that Diſtemper not to be caus'd by the Acrimony of the peccant Humours. This Acrimony is leſs violent in the Rheumatiſm, than in the Scurvy, Ptiſick, Pox, *&c.* but in the Apoplexy, Dropſy, *&c.* it is more ſo. Wine, according to the Soil that produces it, or the Degrees of Fermentation, or the various kinds of Analyſes us'd in diſtilling it, yields very different Liquors. Thoſe which are drawn from ſtrong body'd Wines, retain a great deal of their Nature, but a ſmall Wine cannot yield a ſtrong Spirit; and that Wine, which is upon the frett, degenerates into a Hundred different kinds of Savours.

We have already excepted the Plague and Peſtilential Diſeaſes, out of this general Rule of Coagulation, followed by a Diſſolution; altho' in the *Eaſt Indies*, and *America* (Countries often viſited with that dreadful Calamity) this ſame general Rule has been obſerv'd to hold good; but it likewiſe

happens that, in Peſtilential Fevours, the Pulſe is of no ſervice to the Diſcovery of them; nay often as regular as that of a Perſon in Health: We may therefore affirm that the Poiſon, or Peſtilential Ferment is ſuch, that it has no ſooner infus'd it ſelf into the Blood, but it immediately corrodes and breaks its Filaments, as being to the laſt degree cauſtick, and turns it into a mere Maſs of the ſharpeſt and Hotteſt Serum, as the Plague Sore doth ſufficiently prove. This fatal Abceſs or Impoſtumation is caus'd by a new Coagulation of the Blood, which is gathered here and there into Swellings and Knobs; becauſe its Principles are entirely deſtroy'd, without any Poſſibility of recovering them. This Maſs of ſharp and burning Serum ſets the whole Body on Fire, and being a great deal too liquid, (whereas the Blood in its natural State ought to have a certain Degree of Thickneſs) it makes no Reſiſtance, either in the Heart or Arteries, but they drive it about without any difficulty; which is the Reaſon why in the Peſtilence and Peſtilential Fevers, the Pulſe is often regular and like unto the natural Pulſe of a Man in Health. And this is an infallible Symptom of Death, it being impoſſible to reſtore the Blood to its firſt Principles.

From all which it follows, that the Liquids being overcharg'd with Heterogeneous, Acid, Sharp and very active Particles, produce acute Diſeaſes, frequent in hot Countries, whoſe Air is fill'd with a ſubtle Niter, and whoſe Soil produces ſpirituous Fruits. The Diſtempers that happen in Climates where the Air is thicker, are of another Nature; the Juices of their Food being unwholeſome, and the Air it ſelf Foggy, Thick, and Damp, the vitiated Ferment which all theſe and an Hundred more, cauſe in the Body, is but moderately active, and doth leiſurely diſplay it ſelf in the Blood; and this is the original Cauſe of Chronick Diſeaſes.

This Doctrine is ſo far from being an Hypotheſis, that it is the very Hiſtory of Nature, of which there are as many Proofs as there are Symptoms of acute and chronick Diſtempers. The Heavineſs and Pain of the Head, Stomach, and of the whole Body, the great difficulty of Breathing, of Stirring, of making Water, do ſufficiently demonſtrate that the Circulation

culation of the Blood, &c. is not free, that it is hinder'd and obſtructed in their proper Veſſels, that theſe are full of viſcous and tenacious Humours, or a crude Lympha, which cannot aſſimilate it ſelf with the Blood.

Doth not the Difficulty of ſtirring, which is generally the firſt Symptom the Patient feels, and which in Chronick Caſes doth not ſhow it ſelf till a great while after, clearly demonſtrate the Truth of our Doctrine, of the thickning of the Liquids, to which ſeveral other things, ſuch as the Food, Air, the defects of the ſolid parts, an idle Life, Paſſion, &c. concurr? But it is ſufficient here to point out to the general Cauſes of our Diſeaſes, a more particular account would ſwell up to a great Volume. If the World doth me the honour to approve of this Eſſay, I may hereafter apply my ſelf to the explaining the Cauſes of the greateſt Diſtempers, according to the Plan we have juſt now given the Reader.

We come now to prove that Minerals and Mettals alone, afford true and proper Remedies againſt ſuch great Diſeaſes. I have been induced to apply my ſelf to this, by the Example of very eminent Chymiſts: My Endeavours, or good Fortune (which you pleaſe to call it) has enabled me to find out a certain Number of Remedies, the Succeſs of which having been ſo often, ſo long and happily experienced, ought to ſatisfy the World, as it has convinced me, of their Goodneſs; than which the Faculty hath not hitherto afforded better: Without therefore entring into an unneceſſary Diſquiſition about the generation of Mettals, concerning which we can affirm nothing certain, it is agreed by all Chymiſts that their predominant Principle is Sulphur; that there is a greater Quantity of it to be found in Gold and Iron, than in any other Mettal. This Sulphur likewiſe is affirm'd to be full of Acids, that an Iron Rod being plung'd into melted Gold, is corroded by the Acidity of the Gold, and that the Acidity of the Iron doth turn it into Ruſt. Tinn is ſo full of Acids, that if you mix it with Salt-peter, and agitate it, it will ſparkle and blaze: This Sulphur it is that communicates to the Tongue a ſower vitrioline Savour, of which all other Mettals likewiſe participate: This Sulphur being thoroughly fix'd, produces perfect Mettals, ſuch as Gold and Silver,

ver; but if it be leſs fix'd, the Mettals are ſofter, as Lead and Tinn, which are eaſily melted. To this ſulphur Chymiſts add a Mettallick Earth, which they call Mercury. When a Mettal abounds with Sulphur, and has but a ſmall Quantity of Mercury, it is both hard, and difficult to melt, but Fire ſoon makes it glowing hot. Lead, becauſe it abounds with a predominant Acid, is eaſily united to ſoft Mettals, ſuch as Copper, Iron, and Tinn, all which it corrodes and abſorbs; And it is by theſe Means, that theſe ſoft Mettals are ſeparated from Gold and Silver, if they happen to be mixt with them. Without purſuing theſe Enquiries further, it muſt be owned that Mettals, in their kinds, are the moſt perfect Operation of Nature; and that Sulphur, which is as their Soul, is the moſt digeſted, and hath a wonderful Subtility and Operation. Iron and Copper, though melted a Thouſand Times, will ſend forth as ſtrong and penetrating a Smell the laſt Time, as the firſt, their Virtue being as 'twere inexhauſtible. This hath induced the ancient Chymiſts, *Paracelſus*, *Van Helmont*, *Baſil*, *Valentinus*, and others to affirm that, they acted by Irradiation, and by their preſence alone; and indeed they communicate their Tincture and Taſte, without ſenſibly loſing any thing of their Weight, Smell, or Virtue. A few grains of *Crocus Martis*, given to a young Woman that has the green Sickneſs or Jaundice, or languiſhes under a *Cachexy*, though her Pulſe be almoſt imperceptible, will in leſs than an Hour's Time, make it vigorous and quick. Whence can ſuch a wonderful Alteration proceed, but from a ſubtle Sulphur, infus'd into the Blood along which the Chyle? Mineral Waters not only never freeze, but continually ſmoak, and ſome of them are ſo hott, that one cannot bear to touch them; ſuch are the Waters of *Balaruc*, which give the Tincture of Mallows Flowers a red Colour, and diſſolve the White of an Egg, without appearing viſcous by it: Theſe Mineral Waters, which are found in ſeveral Countries, are a kind of natural Tincture, which is made in the Bowels of the Earth; but whether they be natural or artificial, when a Man has found once the right Secret of making them, they convey an anodyne Sulphur into the Blood, which deſtroys its vitiated Heterogeneous Acidity, and diſ-

ſolves

ſolves the Coagulation occaſion'd by it. The Metallick Earth of Iron alone removes Obſtructions, by abſorbing thoſe fix'd Acids, which are predominant in the yellow Jaundice and Green-Sickneſs. Theſe precious Metallick Tinctures are not the Effect of ordinary Chymical Operations, that which appears a Tincture, being nothing elſe but a groſs Separation of the Integrant Particles of the Mettal, which being reunited and melted, aſſume their primitive Form again. It is not of ſuch as theſe, which are mere Impoſitions, that we flatter our ſelves to have found out the Secret. Some able Chymiſts have found Means to extract a very red Oyl from Gold, which ſwims upon the Surface of Water, others have extracted the like from Copper.

Mr. *Boyle* had found out the Secret of ſeparating Mercury from Gold and Silver, by means of fixed Alcalious Salts, ſuch as Salt of Tartar, and Salt Almoniack.

Mineral Salts, ſuch as Vitriol, Salt-peter, common Salt, as well as thoſe Minerals which participate of the Mettallick Nature, as Antimony, Mercury, and the Mettals themſelves, agree in this one point, that they are the laſt Effort of Nature, which has, if I may ſo expreſs it, treaſur'd up in them, as in a little compaſs an almoſt inexhauſtible and infinite number of Virtues. Thoſe of the Animal and Vegetable kind, as they are much inferiour, ſo are they more eaſily deſtroy'd, both their Salt and their Sulphur being of a looſer Nature, and not concentred within ſuch a narrow Compaſs. One ſingle Grain of Vitriol will give a Taſte to above 22000 drops of Water. The perpetual Pill, the Antimonial Cup, and Mercury, communicate their Virtue, without any ſenſible diminution, and a very ſmall Quantity of any of them, is ſufficient to impregnate ſeveral Tuns of Wine or Water. It is from theſe Obſervations, ſo well known to all Chymiſts, that we are, with great Reaſon, induced to affirm, that there is nothing in Nature ſo powerful as Mettals and Minerals to diſſolve the Liquids of our Bodies, when they are become too groſs and thick, which is the ſaddeſt Caſe that can befall us; ſince 'tis the Original Cauſe of all our Diſtempers, and of Death it ſelf. We ſhall leave it to thoſe who

pleaſe,

please, to enquire into the first Elementary Principles of which all those Bodies are form'd, it will be sufficient for a Spagirick Physician to know that Salt and the Sulphur are certainly extracted from those Bodies, and that they are they which make such a sensible Impression upon our Humours and upon our Senses. The four Mineral Salts, *viz.* common Salt, Salt-peter, Vitriol, and Allum, will melt in common Water, all which four are but the same Acid Salt under different Forms, according to the Texture and the Variety of Matter, which is as their *Matrix*, to which they are united and corporify'd; thence proceeds the difference of their Tastes. The Spirit of Allum and that of the Vitriol are exactly alike, the others differ only in degrees. If those Spirits could be entirely divested from their Earth, they could not be known one from the other, and for this very Cause we think *Van Helmont* had reason to say, that the universal Principle of these Salts swims in the Water. It is an Acid Salt, the only Acid in Nature, which is diversify'd only by the Means of those Bodies which are united to it. And this is the Reason why different sorts of them are found in different and sometimes in the same Earth. The Chymical Fire doth so alter them, that they are no longer the Production of Nature, but of Art; because the volatile Sulphur doth so closely unite with any porous Earth, that it becomes a new Compound. Our common Cabbage yields exactly the same Salt by a Chymical Fire, as the *Solanum Furiosum*, which is a rank Poison. If productions of new unfermented Wine do greatly differ from those of that which has been fermented, their difference is still greater, according to the Degrees of Heat us'd in extracting them. Wood expos'd to the Air gives only some Smoak and some Ashes when set on Fire, but when it is distill'd in a Retort, it affords an Oyl, a Spirit, an Acid Liquor, an insipid Water, and some Cinders. All mixt Bodies are liable to infinite Alterations, according to an Infinity of accidental Circumstances concurring. No Salt can be drawn out of rotten Wood, because that which it had, is dissolv'd and dispers'd by the Moistness of the Air. The most experienced Chymists agree that the Salts of all Plants are nothing

else

elſe but Mineral Salts, and that there is little or no difference betwixt them; the Sulphur and Salt of mixt Bodies only are active; their Earth is altogether paſſive. Foſſile Salts are full of an Acid Salt, mixt with a quantity of Sulphur, Earth, and fixed Salt. Nature produces no Alcalious Salt, it is the Effect of Fire alone, which by its violent Motion breaks off the Corners of Bodies, and ſifts them by the Inſinuation of the Points, which like a Torrent, flow from it, till ſuch Time as they can paſs and repaſs without Reſiſtance, by thoſe paſſages they have open'd to themſelves. 'Tis then that they bear all the Force and Impetuoſity of Fire, without any new Alteration, unleſs it be rais'd to its utmoſt degree of Violence; for then thoſe Alcalious Salts being entirely ſhatter'd, are at length vitrified, which is the utmoſt bound of the Power of Fire. Foſſile Salts are always mixt with ſome Earth, of which it is impoſſible totally to diveſt them; their Acids are ſharp Points laden with Sulphur. Salt of Urine is like a Spunge, which retains ſome Portion of the Acid Salt mixt with a fœtid Oyl. Lixivial Salts contain only as much Acid as the Fire could not deſtroy. Saline Salt is a compound of the Acid and Volatile Salt, and a fix'd Acid. The Way to make Artificial Salt-Peter, Salt, or Vitriol, is only to mix with Salt of Tartar, ſome Spirits of Salt-Peter, Salt, or Vitriol, which are Mixts compos'd of Salts partly fixt, and partly volatile. When theſe Spirits are mixt with Salt of Tartar, there follows ſuch a violent Ebullition, that it ſhatters the Particles of the Mettal that happens to be in it. The coarſer the Sulphur is, with which the Salts are fenced, the more vehemently they ſtrive againſt the Bodies they meet with, as may be plainly ſeen in the Spirit of Salt-Peter; but on the contrary, if the Sulphur be more ſubtle, it enters into the minuteſt pores of Gold, for inſtance, as may be obſerv'd in the Spirit of Salt. Theſe fixed Salts, by the repeated labour of the Chymiſts, either become volatile, or elſe by the Addition of ſome Salt of Urine, which abſorbs thoſe Acid Salts, they force the Earth that enclos'd them to præcipitate. And from this mixture is made that which we call compound Salt, which by means of Fire

becomes a volatile concrete Salt. Minerals have in them an Urinous Salt, which sometimes resembles the Salt which is extracted from Plants, sometimes that which is drawn from Animals. The Spirit of Salt, for Instance, being mixt with the Salt of some Plant, makes a Sal Armoniack: the Salts of Allum and Borax smell of Urine: Salts of Allum mixt with the fixed Salts of Plants, and Salt of Borax mixed with lixivial Salts of Minerals, become volatile concrete Salts, just after the same manner as Salt of Urine turns all Acid Salts into Sal Armoniack.

Some Salt there is in the very inmost Center of all Bodies, which they will yield if they be rightly manag'd. The clearest Water will afford, by distillation, a cubical Salt, whose Taste is like that of Sea Salt, and an inflamable Sulphur. *Barrichius* hath extracted from Gold beaten in a glass Mortar, during a whole Month without Intermission, with a simple distill'd Water, and without the help of Fire, or any other corrosive dissolvent, a Black Powder, which could not be reduc'd into Gold again, which yielded a small quantity of sharp, tartish and Christalline Salt. Lead, Copper, Silver, and Tin us'd in the same manner, but in a shorter space of Time, have afforded the like Powders. That of Lead was white like Chalk, and its Salt of a yellow Colour, of a sharp Taste, and of various shapes. That of Tin was very like that of Gold. That of Silver was of an ash Colour, and that of Copper of a yellowish Colour: None of which Powders excepting that of Copper and Lead, could ever be reduced to their primitive mettallick Form, by Labour, Industry, or any degree of Heat that could be used. From whence it follows that there must be a real Salt in those Mettals, which cannot be come at but with a great deal of Labour, because it is concentred, and closely united to the other Mettallick Principles. Mercury handled the same Way, by a long Trituration, hath not shown the least Token of its containing any Salt; but it has given some by sinking a thin Blade of Iron into it, in a Vessel closely stopt and expos'd to the Heat of the Summer's Sun the Space of three Months, the Iron hath turn'd to Rust, which could not have been, if

there

there had not been such a volatile Salt in Mercury to corrode the Iron.

Salts borrow their Activity and Strength from those Sulphurs which diversify the Salts, and determine them. Sulphurs are compos'd of crooked, ramose, flexible and elastick Particles, which makes their separation one from another, and their mixing themselves with Liquids of different Natures, so difficult; they preserving the Motion that has been communicated to them, for some considerable Time. Nevertheless these Sulphurs seem to have their origine from Acids, according as they are variously combined. Common Sulphur affords a great Quantity of Acids, the Saline particles of some Mettals and Minerals, such as Iron, &c. are easily turn'd into Sulphurs, which last is easily mixt with any Saline Dissolvents, being of the same Nature with them. The Sulphureous Smell and Flame, which comes from Mettals heated in the Fire, doth sufficiently demonstrate their abounding with it. Copper, v. g. heated red hot an hundred Times, casts the last as well as the first Time a very Sulphureous Smell. Tin mixt with Salt-Peter and cast into the Fire, causes a great Fulmination, and casts a great Flame of a blewish Colour. The Filings of Iron thrown upon the Flame of a Candle, will sparkle very much; and being mixt with common Brimstone, buried a Foot or two deep under Ground, and sprinkled with Water, will be set on Fire to that degree, that they will cast forth Flames like a Volcano, and with the same Noise. The like Phænomenon will happen, when one sprinkles some Charcoal dust upon the same Filings melted with a Burning-Glass. There is an Artificial Vitriol made by mixing some File-dust with Spirit of Vitriol, which mixture being distill'd will yield a Liquor, which retains a very Sulphureous Smell for several Months. Iron in dissolving doth cast up such Sulphureous Vapours, as are easily set on Fire, and the Flame will continue some considerable Time. This Mettal being mix'd, and melted with Copper, by a Burning-glass, sparkles very much; but if mixt with Silver, it doth not sparkle at all, because this last is the least Sulphureous of any Mettal:

When melted with Gold it ſparkles no more than if it was melted by it ſelf. And this makes us conjecture that the Sulphur of Tinn is of the ſame Nature with that of Gold, and no Ways combuſtible. *Borrichius* aſſures us that he has reduced Gold by a fourteenth Nights Trituration, into a Greyiſh Powder, which was no more reducible into Gold. He adds likewiſe, that he has drawn from that Powder by Diſtillation with an extraordinary Heat, a Liquor, though in a ſmall Quantity, of moſt lively Red, which might be more juſtly call'd the true *Aurum Potabile*, than the many groſs Tinctures which are called by that Name, and ſmell ſtrong of Impoſture. The Colour of theſe Drops and their Sulphureous Odor, do ſufficiently demonſtrate, that Gold abounds with Sulphur, but a Sulphur which is more concocted and more digeſted than that of any other Mettals, whoſe Texture being looſer, and leſs compact, makes them ſo much lighter than Gold. Their fixed Sulphur likewiſe is impure, being mixt with ſeveral Mettallick Bituminous Sulphurs, with ſeveral Earthy and Saline Particles, which cannot ſo cloſely unite together, as to be able to bear any Time the Force and Impetuoſity of Fire. Nevertheleſs the Sulphur of Copper doth not greatly differ from that of Gold and Silver, for it eaſily unites with either of them.

The Sulphurs of Minerals are not exactly like thoſe of Mettals; theſe laſt being both more fixt, and more tenacious: The Sulphur of Salt-Peter comes very near that of Vegetables. Vitriol contains a common, and Allum a Bituminous Sulphur; and Bay-Salt, and Salt-gemma, a Mineral Sulphur; the Taſtes and Effects which thoſe Salts produce, are ſo many Proofs of it: Sal gem. diſſolv'd by thoſe Waters, which are found within the Bowels of the Earth, and mixt with any Mettallick Sulphur, doth ſo ſtrongly unite and adhere to it, that no Artifice can ever divide them. The Salt which Rivers carry into the Sea, is call'd Sea-Salt: Bituminous Sulphur, being mixt with a conſiderable quantity of Earth, which hinders it from cloſely uniting to any Salt, is not ſo ſuſceptible of Motion, as other Sulphurs are: This likewiſe makes it unfit of it ſelf to diſſolve any Mettalline Body, unleſs

it be mixt with, and helped by ſome Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral Sulphur; for then it can inſinuate it ſelf into any Mettal. Spirit of Vitriol could not of it ſelf penetrate into Silver, if Spirit of Salt-Peter did not give it its Motion. Mettallick Sulphur, whoſe Texture is cloſer and more ſolid than that of any other Sulphur, will, without yielding to it, ſuſtain all the Force of Fire, much longer than any other Sulphur, which expoſing a wider Surface to the Flames, are more quickly penetrated and evaporated by them. Sulphur takes Fire, becauſe it is compos'd of Oyl, mixt with an Acid. The Roſin which is the Reſult of a Mixture of Spirit of Salt-Peter with Oyl of Cinamon, is much more Inflamable, than either the Spirit, or the Oyl by themſelves. Separate the Acid Particles of common Sulphur from the Oyly, and expoſe the Oyly part to the Flame of a Candle, it will only crackle, without catching Fire, neither can it be ſet a burning, unleſs you throw it upon burning Charcoals; and then the Acidity of the Wood ſupplies the Room of the Sulphureous Acid, which had been ſeparated from it. The Sulphur of Mettals and Minerals, together with their Salts, are exceeding powerful to diſſolve any kind of Bodies, whether thoſe Salts and Sulphurs be united or ſeparated. As thoſe Diſſolvents, which are extracted from Vegetables, are much Weaker, ſo we may venture to affirm, that they receive all their Strength from the Mineral Salts which paſs into their Subſtance along with their Nouriſhment, whilſt the Vegetable is faſten'd to the Earth by its Roots. Acid Sulphureous Diſſolvents are *Aqua fortis*, *Aqua Regis*, Spirit of Vitriol, of Salt-Peter, Allom, Copperas, and the like. The Chymick Art teaches us how to ſweeten their violent Acrimony, whether it be by diveſting them of their Cauſtick particles, by breaking their Texture by main Strength, or by tempering it by the Mixture of ſome Foreign matter. They who are Maſters of this Art, know how to ſeparate whatever is hurtful, in the Sulphur of Copper, Oyl of Vitriol, Spirit of Salt, of Salt-Peter, Allom, Antimony, Sulphur of Arſenick, and corroſive Sublimate, which is the ſtrongeſt of all Poiſons made of Mercury. When

they

they come out of the Hands of an able Chymist, they can no longer hurt the nice and tender contexture of human Bodies; they have only so much Strength left in them, as is necessary to excite a vigorous Motion in the solid and the liquid parts, which were benum'd; and by that Means, to recover them from their languid Functions, into a perfect State of Activity and Health.

And now we hope that what has been said concerning the Virtues of Mettals and Minerals, will be sufficient to give the Reader an Idea of our Designs, and to convince him how unreasonable it is to seek or expect elsewhere any efficacious Remedies against such a Multitude of dreadful Diseases, which threaten us, and sometimes throw the Patient into Despair, as well as his Physician, who satisfy'd with that stock of knowledge he has received from his Predecessors, thinks he has done his Part, if his Patients don't dye contrary to those Rules which have been blindly transmitted to him. It is enough for him to say, that it was a Distemper above the Power of any Remedy, that nothing has been neglected that could save the sick Person, and that the Power of Art could go no further, than he has done. Is it possible that in so Learned, and so Industrious an Age as this, wherein all other Arts and Sciences have receiv'd such considerable Improvements, this which is the most necessary and beneficial to Mankind, should be the only one that is liable to so shameful a Reproach, as that it could not receive the least degree of Improvement? If I have vainly flatter'd my self, or am under a Mistake, I have been led into it, against my will, by several successful Cures. And Indeed, who can resist the Testimony of Experience, when it is upheld by Reason, and follow'd with Success? But in order to display still more the excellent Virtues of Minerals and Mettals, let us endeavour to apply them to the most grievous and stubborn Diseases; for the Reader will thus far at least be made sensible by it, that if I have sometimes offer'd my self to cure those desperate Distempers, which had been given over by other Physicians as incurable, I did not do it altogether rashly and through Ignorance.

There

There is but one Law in Nature, those infinite variations it receives even being the Cause of its apparent Differences. The Digestions, Dissolutions, Coagulations, Precipitations, &c. which are caus'd in the Body, very nearly follow those Operations, which are perform'd by Chymistry; those Coagulations which produce Chronical Diseases, are too hard and tenacious to yield to the Dissolvents of the Stomach, which are only strong enough to digest our Nourishment, but too weak to dissolve any Liquids, that are become over viscous: The very Dissolvents themselves are often infected with this fault, the solid Parts become relax'd, the Elastick Power lessening proportionably, as it ceases to be upheld, and quickned by Spirituous Liquids. The Food by a necessary consequence, turns only into a kind of glewish Pap, instead of a liquid, subtil and spirituous Chyle; and the Strength of the Body which diminishes every day gives us still less Reason to hope for a Cure. 'Tis however true, that some Persons have recovered their Health, by a prudent choice of Food, change of Air, and by a moderate Dyet; but we must likewise ingenuously confess, that all these Helps do very often prove too weak, and that it is not very prudent to trust too much to them; seeing they have not a constant and infallible Efficacy of themselves, but only as far as they are upheld by other more efficacious means. Can we expect, that Food alone should be able to correct the defects of the Chyle, which communicates its own defects to every thing it touches? Can we, for instance, imagine, that Milk shall have greater power to sweeten Vinegar, than Vinegar to turn and sower the Milk? The same thing happens in the Stomach, and in all the Liquids of the Body, which become so sharp and vitiated, that we must not wonder at the fierceness of those Symptoms, which attend it. (*Impura corpora quo plus nutrieris, eo magis lædes*, says *Hypocrates*; and daily Experience shows it: For the Jellies of those Animals and Vegetables we feed upon, are in their nature a little viscous; and in order to extract from them a quickning lively Spirit, they ought to be penetrated, and destroy'd, dissolv'd, so as to form a new being, *viz.* a spirituous Chyle; but in sickness, the

Liquid

Liquids of the Body are too tenacious to produce such an effect. 'Tis much more likely, that those Jellies should become of the same Nature and Character with those viciated Liquids. *Galenical* Medicines gives us little reason to hope for a more effectual help from them: Letting of Blood compleats the ruin of that natural Strength which was left, and exhausts the elastick Virtue of the Fibers of the solid parts. This elastick Force, sinking under the weight of the viscous and clammy Liquids, that over-power it, can make but a very faint resistance: neither doth bleeding destroy or correct the principles of Coagulation; in acute Diseases indeed, it is an excellent Remedy, where this elastick power is entire; not exhausted, but oppressed; not destroy'd, but over-burthened. It suffices to remove that clogging Weight, whose Gravity exceeds the resistance which that elastick Power can oppose to it; and then that power displays it self wholly and returns to its primitive State. The Liquids, in acute Distempers, are full of Spirituous and artificial Salts and Sulphurs, which are only intangled in those very thick Liquids. Bleeding takes away part of that Weight, which did suppress those Powers; after which they recover themselves in a little while, and vigorously shake off, and expel the remaining part of the weight, which Bleeding could not remove: But it is far otherwise in chronical Diseases; the Elasticity of the solid parts is near entirely ruin'd, by the too long abode of the stagnated Humours, the Fibers are overpower'd by unwholsome viscous Jaibes, from which all their striving can not extricate them; whether it be because their texture is relax'd by the abode of those Humours, or because those very Fibers, having been swell'd up for some time by a fermenting Liquor, (and, which is worse, by a Fermentation which tends to the destruction of the character it ought to have in order to be useful) lose their Force by having been too long and to such a degree extended, as to have been driven out of those Limits which Nature had given them: which is the reason why their Endeavours to recover themselves, are so faint and weak; to which you may add that the continual Convulsions and Contractions which the Fibers have

have labour'd under, have entirely waſted their Vigour and Strength. A Fiddle-ſtring muſt infallibly break, if ſcrew'd up too high and beyond the Bounds of its Elaſticity, which diminiſhes according to the degree of Violence it receives. In Chronical diſtempers, the Liquids are entirely deſtitute of any Spirits able to diſſolve their viſcoſity; Bleeding therefore can be but of little Uſe, ſince it takes away that remaining Strength of the Patient which was his only hope; neither are *Galenical* purgatives more ſucceſsful, they do but, as it were, ſlide over the coagulated Humours, without being able to diſſolve or reach to the Bottom of them. They bring away indeed ſome crude matter, and ſometimes they purge that Serum away, which would have been uſeful in unglowing the viſcous Humours. I own indeed that ſome Purges ſuch as Coloquintida, Senna, Gum Ammoniacum, Gum Guutta, Scamony, Jalap, and the like do diſſolve thoſe viſcoſities; but when the Roſin of thoſe purging vegetables comes to ſtick to the Bowels, what Pains, what excruciating Gripings do they not cauſe? Such as throw the Patient into violent Convulſions, or cauſe ſome mortal Inflammation in the Bowels. Theſe dangerous inconveniences have forced the *Galeniſts* to invent an hundred ways and mixtures to ſoften thoſe turbulent and dangerous Medicines. But a poor Patient is greatly to be pity'd, who is forc'd to uſe ſuch precarious Remedies, which have need of other Remedies to correct and allay their Maliguity, which ſets the viſcous Liquids into a ferment, and diſorder; the ſharp Particles both of the Humours, and Purgatives, diffuſe themſelves throughout the habit of the Body, and ſet it on Fire; this may be eaſily known by the dulneſs of the Pulſe, the redneſs of the Urines the dryneſs of the Bowels, an exceſſive drought, which always follows ſuch kinds of Purges. But what benefit doth the Patient receive by thus mortifying himſelf? The moſt grievous Symptoms are ſuſpended for ſome few Days, and then the Patient finds his hopes of a quick Recovery entirely fruſtrated: The Symptoms return again with greater fierceneſs, becauſe the acrimonious Salts of the Purgative have infus'd themſelves into the whole

Mass of Blood, whose too tenacious Substance they are not able to dissolve, though they are powerful enough to throw the nervous kind into Convulsions, and to cause dreadful Inflammations in the Membranes. Those Salts are, if I may be allow'd the Expression, too soft, to break the Texture of a Vitrioline fixt Salt, very near resembling a Mineral Salt, which keeps the Humours in a kind of fixedness and Coagulation. The very Liquids cannot associate themselves with those Salts, whose Figure is too irregular for their Nature; which in Time of Health is of a sweetness very much like that of Milk.

Here then lies the great, the chief Difficulty, in such Cases, viz. in finding out proper Remedies to correct those vicious Ferments, which are the Principle of those grievous Diseases, in restoring those Savours which had been spoil'd, and that fatal Texture which had corrupted the Nature of the Humours; in causing these to become more subtil, liquid, and spirituous, by such Salts and Sulphurs, which, without being alter'd by, or receiving any change in their Nature, from the vicious Ferment, may be able, by little and little to destroy that Coagulation, to loosen the too strong Texture of the Blood, and gently to stimulate the Solids, for fear of causing an Inflammation in them; and lastly to blunt and absorb the too fixed Points of the Vitriolme Salts. The Remedies therefore in this Case must be such as have neither too manifest a Savour, nor too much Activity, which being infus'd into the Blood, and mixing themselves with the Particles of it, do by little and little, separate and break its too gross Sulphur, by their Weight and Motion. Such is, for instance, the Operation of Mercury, which is indeed an excellent Remedy against several grievous Diseases, but as we shall show by and by, is attended with so many Inconveniences in Venereal Cases, and so often fails of Success, that I thought it well deserved all my Study and Application, to find out a greater and safer Specifick, such as might be free from the Inconveniences of the other. And the Success I have been blest'd with doth sufficiently assure me of my good Fortune, in the

discovery

diſcovery of this Specifick; and if Phyſicians, eſpecially thoſe of the Faculty of *Paris*, (which abounds with Men of good admirable genius, and conſummate knowledge) had not too negligently rely'd upon thoſe Remedies which had been found out before them, as if the Witt of Man could go no further, I doubt not but as great Improvements would have been made in Phyſick, as in other Arts and Sciences.

But let us return to the Point in hand: The Agents which deſtroy the Coagulation of the Humours perform that Operation ſeveral Ways; either in breaking the too fixt Particles of the Liquid, as Mercury doth, or by abſorbing the Vitrioline Salts which cauſe theſe Coagulations, as Iron doth in the yellow Jaundice, Hypocondriack and Hiſterick Paſſion, in the Scurvy and Dropſy. Thoſe Phyſicians who, inſtead of paying a blind Deference to the Opinion of others, chuſe to make Uſe of their Reaſon, ſhould apply their whole Study, to find out proper Remedies to break, or ſheath the ſharp Points of thoſe Saline or Acrimonious Salts, which cauſe thoſe vicious Fermentations, which we find towards the End of Chronick Diſtempers. Theſe Salts diſſolve (but in ſuch a manner as proves fatal to the Patient,) the Liquids which had been a long while coagulated; not only by breaking their Texture, but likewiſe by falling upon the ſolid parts, and by ſwimming in the Serum of the Blood, whoſe Principle is already deſtroy'd, they are hurried againſt the ſolid nervous, and membranous Parts, and there excite burning Heats, and mortal Inflammations, attended either with a Gangrene, or ſome incurable Ulcer at leaſt. All urinous Mineral Salts, Armoniac, Volatile, Concrete and Mineral Salts, are moſt proper to deſtroy the Contexture of thoſe Saline Salts, which are caus'd by vitiated Ferments. In a Word, the Remedy which we have been in ſearch of, and are perſuaded we have found, ought to renew the elaſtick power of the Fibers, both of the Stomach, and Bowels. Such is the inſipid Flegm of Vitriol, the dulcify'd Spirit of Salt, Sulphur, and Salt-peter. The Alterant and Purgative Medicines which are drawn from Animals, and Vegetables, are incapable of producing ſuch Effects,

the firſt looſing their Vertue before they reach the Blood, being ſtript of it in the Stomach or Bowels; the others indeed, paſs into, and mix themſelves with the Humours, but their Nature and Contexture being too weak and ſoft, they contract the very defects of the Liquids which they were deſign'd to correct; but if their Contexture be not ſuſceptible of them, then they excite ſome ſtrange Fermentation, and inſtead of correcting the vitiated Ferment, they ſet the whole Body on Fire. All alterant Remedies are either extracted from Herbs, or from bitter, acid and acrimonious Roots: But what good can we hope for from thoſe Juices which are very near of the ſame kind with ours, and of the ſame Nature with the Humours of our Bodies, ſeeing theſe are produced by the Juices of Vegetables, and that in reality they are one and the ſame, diſguis'd under different Forms? or how ſhall they be able to correct the viciated Savours, when themſelves are ſo apt to corrupt? what diſorders would they not cauſe in the Blood, if they could bring their whole Force along with them, without receiving any alteration in the Stomach and Bowels? A Medicine drawn from Vegetables, convey'd into the Blood, crude, and undigeſted by the Stomach, is capable of cauſing very great diſorders in it: Thence come thoſe terrible over-purgings, and that fatal Diſſolution of the Humours, which is often attended with ſuch Leanneſs, as ſoon reduces a Man from a vigorous and flouriſhing State of Health, to a mere walking Skeleton; and this fatal Change ſometimes happens in a few Days; not to take notice of thoſe Inflammations, which turn to a general Mortification always attended with Death. 'Tis no eaſy Matter to ſtop the impetuous Force of Medicines drawn from Vegetables, when it once diſplays it ſelf by an unſeaſonable Fermentation. Chronick Diſeaſes can be cur'd no other way but that, by which Nature has produced them, that is, leiſurely and ſlowly. A Phyſician ought not to expect that a Diſeaſe, which has been a long while breeding by a diſorder'd Conſtitution, can be eradicated in few Days; neither will it be effected by great and violent, but by gentle and moderate Evacuations; not by too vigorous an

Expulſion

Expulsion by Urine or Sweat, but by a gentle and insensible Perspiration; not in exhausting, but correcting the Blood, and destroying the vicious Principle with which it was infected.

Now it is certain that Chymistry alone can prepare such Metalline and Mineral Sulphurs and Salts, and so ripen and sweeten them by Fire, as that they may produce such happy Effects. It furnishes us with Emeticks, Purgatives, Diaphoreticks, Diureticks, and Alterants, all which have more or less Force, according to the Pleasure of the Artist. Metallick or Mineral Purgatives, being well prepared, do evacuate the peccant Humours, without leaving any Dryness or Swellings in the Bowels, so frequent after Vegetable Purgatives: Neither do we ever see them attended with those Redundances, and dangerous Dissolutions of the Humours, or any of those Super-purgations and Inflammations, which the Rosin of Vegetables causes in the Bowels. Diureticks and Diaphoreticks drawn from Vegetables, are too apt to cause violent Burnings and a dangerous Ferment, which jumbling the useful and hurtful Particles of the Liquid together, cause a confuse mixture of them. The nice Contexture of the Solid Parts, doth insensibly lose its Tonick Motion, by reason of the Impression which the Acrimonious Salts make upon it. And thus it happens that Juices administred to a Patient, to correct the vicious Humours, degenerate into Acrimonious and Saline Salts, by taking the Character of the vitiated Salts they should have corrected, or at least were given to that End: whence it often happens that the Symptoms become fiercer than they were before the taking of those Sudorificks or Diureticks of Vegetables; because the Serosity of the Humours being lessen'd, the acrimonious Salts draw nearer to one another, and become more violent: for whilst they were dissolved and separated by a greater quantity of Serum, their Force was much less; but now the Liquids being depriv'd of a great Part of their Serosity, become sharper and more saline. Those Diaphoreticks and Alterants, which are drawn from Mettals and Minerals, are so entirely free from such Inconveniences, that they are even

even impenetrable by Fire it ſelf: ſuch are Gold, Silver, Iron, Tin, Mercury, Antimony, and Mineral Salts. However Fire may diſguiſe them, they never loſe their Nature, and are ſtill reducible to their natural Form; ſo that we need not fear leſt the viciated Ferment of the Body ſhould change their Nature, or be increaſed by them. To this you may add, that Vegetables are by Nature determined to certain fixt Degrees of Virtue, which admit of no Augmentation or Diminution, according to the Variety of Symptoms; and if any attempt is made to alter them, either it deſtroys their Virtue, or changes it into a quite different one. Chymiſts have given hundreds of different Forms to their vegetable Purgatives, in order to increaſe, leſſen or correct their Force, without any other Succeſs than that of changing them either into Poiſons, or indifferent Remedies. What is the Roſin of Scamony, Senna, Coloquintida, &c, extracted with Spirit of Wine, but a moſt powerful Cauſtick, which cauſes very terrible Convulſions and ineffectual Gripings in the Bowels, attended ſometimes with dangerous Inflammations? what are their Saline Particles, when ſeparated from the Roſin, but a ſimple Diuretick, of leſs Value than Salt of Tartar? ſo that if we muſt needs uſe Vegetables, we ought to leave them juſt as Nature preſents them to us, and content our ſelves with only cleanſing them. Their Earthy Particles, of which Chymiſtry diveſts them, ſerve for a Curb to their Salts and Sulphurs, and qualifie their Activity. The Virtues of Vegetable conſiſts neither in their Salts, nor their Sulphurs ſeparately; but in the Union of both together, with a certain Portion of Flegm and of Earth. The ſupreme Author of Nature has diſpos'd all their Principles in ſo exact a Manner, that hitherto the Witt of Man has not been able to fathom it, and when they have gone about to diſturb, or alter their Order and Proportion, they have deſtroy'd, or quite alter'd the Virtue of the whole. It is not ſo with Mettals and Minerals. Their Virtue may be increas'd, or leſſen'd, or quite taken away according to the Purpoſes they are deſign'd for. Antimony differently prepar'd, becomes a ſtron-

ger or weaker Emetick, or ceaſing to be an Emetick, becomes Diaphoretick. Mercury may be chang'd into the moſt violent of all Poiſons, *viz. Corroſive Sublimate*, and from that terrible Poiſon, one may make it the gentleſt Remedy, *viz. Mercurius dulcis*, or *Aquila alba*; and thus it is that thoſe Mettals and Minerals which are of ſo hard and ſtrong a Nature, as not to be alter'd by any Force of Fire, do nevertheleſs, as it were obey, with a ſurprizing Docility, the Will of the Artiſt in every thing.

It is impoſſible to account rationally for the Modus of theſe Mineral and Mettallick diſſolvents operating upon a coagulated Liquid, unleſs from the Mechaniſm or Configuration of the Parts which compoſe both the one and the other. Water will afford us an Inſtance of it, four Ounces of which diſſolves two Ounces of common Salt, and then one Ounce of Allom, after that an Ounce of Salt-peter, and laſtly one Ounce of Sal Armoniack: Notwithſtanding the whole Maſs doth not ſeem to the Eye to be ſwell'd, or ſo much as thickned, from whence we muſt infer that the Particles of thoſe Salts are very different both in Figure and Bigneſs, and that there are great interſtices between the Particles of the Water, to contain ſo many Matters, without ſhowing any viſible increaſe of its Bulk or Height, or diſcovering any of thoſe Salts, unleſs the Water be evaporated. This Inſtance will afford us great Light and Facility, in explaining the Action of Mineral and Mettallick Diſſolvents upon the viſcous, thick, or coagulated Humours of our Bodies. Theſe diſſolvents are Sulphureous and Saline; and the freer they are from Foreign Matters, the more eaſily they penetrate thoſe Bodies they are to diſſolve. If our Liquors are become thick with coarſe Sulphurs, their Diſſolvent ought to be Sulphureous, but of a more firm Contexture; Antimony furniſhes us with it, being altogether Sulphureous, and one Sulphur being the Diſſolvent of another. If the coagulated Liquid is of a Roſinous Nature, ſome Aqueous Mineral muſt be added to the Sulphureous Diſſolvent; for Roſinous Bodies are of Nature partly Aqueous, and partly Sulphureous. If the Liquid is altogether oyly or ſulphureous,

the

the Diſſolvents that muſt be uſed, ought to be Oyls and Sulphurs drawn from Metals and Minerals. Sulphurs are the moſt powerful of all Diſſolvers of Roſinous, Bituminous, Fat, and other like matters; Spirits not being ſtrong enough for them. The great Chymiſts of former Ages, who wrought ſuch ſurprizing Cures, underſtood how to diveſt Metals of their Sulphur; ſuch is the *Hydropick Sulphur*, or *Diaphoretick Gold* of *Potius*, the *Ens Veneris* of *Van Helmont* and the *Stone of Butler*. I hope the World being, in Time, convinc'd by many ſucceſsful Experiments, of which I am already able to produce a conſiderable Number, will do me that Juſtice, as to place ſome of my Tinctures and Salts in the Claſs of thoſe noble Medicines.

Saline Diſſolvents are very powerful. They are either Acid or Lixivial: The Acid ones are *Aqua fortis* and *Aqua Regalis*: The Lixivial are either fixed or volatil; the fixed are all Alcalious Salts extracted by Fire, the volatil ones will be rais'd even by a gentle Fire, ſuch is the Spirit of Sal Armoniack. The Lixivial ones receive all their Force from the Acids, and theſe do not act ſo powerfully upon the fixed, as the volatil Salts; becauſe the Pores of theſe are more open: And that is the Reaſon why they are not proper in Hypocondriack Caſes, or the Yellow-Jaundice where the Salts are fixed and vitrioline. When therefore a Mettallick or Mineral Diſſolvent mixes it ſelf with the Liquids of human Bodies, it receives into its own Pores as much of thoſe Liquids as they can contain; but as thoſe very Diſſolvents have likewiſe Pores of divers Figures, every one of them imbibes ſuch Particles as agree with their own Figure and Diameter, as we ſaid juſt now of common Water, four Ounces of which diſſolves five Ounces of different Salts.

It is therefore the Duty of a Phyſician to make choice of a proper Diſſolvent, and of an exact proportion to the Body it is intended to diſſolve; a Diſſolvent, whoſe Virtue may be open'd by the Heat or Motion of the Parts, which compoſe the Liquors of our Bodies. If the Diſſolvent is too volatil, its Virtue will ſpread it ſelf without any effect, by too quick a Motion, or too great a Heat: If it is too

fixed,

fixed, it will not sufficiently display it self. This last manner of operating is that of absorbents or literants, such as insipid Earths, either Metallick or Mineral, as of Iron, Antimony, Vitriol and Allom. Others operate another Way, some by breaking, tearing and gnawing those Sulphurs which are of too hard a Contexture, and too strongly united and knit together, as the dulcify'd Spirit of Salt, Salt-peter, Vitriol, Allom, Sulphur and Copperas. Others lastly dissolve only by their Weight, Motion and Figure, as Mercury. As I only undertook this small Essay, to explain more perfectly the Operation of Mercury in the Pox, and have rummaged the whole *Materia Chymica* with this only View, of finding out a more gentle, and safer Remedy, than Mercury; the Reader will permit me to explain more fully, both the Nature of this cruel Disease, so fatal and yet so just an Effect and Punishment of Debauchery, and the manner of Mercury operating in the Cure of it.

A small attention on the Effects of the Pox, will be sufficient to make us sensible, that the Blood and Humours do thicken by little and little, and to a certain Degree, and that they dissolve themselves afterwards into an Acrimonious Serum, of so caustick a Nature, that it gnaws the very Flesh and Bones. Our Notions concerning this matter could not have been sufficiently understood, without a previous and exact knowledge of those Principles we have been laying down, both with respect to the Nature of acute, or chronick Distempers, and the manner of operating of Metallick and Mineral Remedies. It is not necessary to observe to the Reader, that the Pox is of the Chronick kind. Its beginnings seem very unlike the cruel and fatal Effects which display themselves afterwards. The Virus communicated by the Union of both Sexes, doth not amount perhaps to the hundredth part of a Grain. It is like the Poison of a Viper, one can hardly conceive how the fine small Tooth of that Creature, can communicate it thro' the little Orifice it makes. What can the Glove of a Person that has the Itch, communicate to one that is sound? Nevertheless, these seemingly weak Principles, will in time cause very dreadful

Diſeaſes, and ſometimes Death; howbeit I don't pretend to write a compleat Treatiſe of the Pox, nor copy the Authors who have writ on the Subject: My Notions are entirely different from theirs, they do but copy one another, and lay down the ſame erroneous Principle, *viz.* that Mercury is the only Remedy againſt that Diſeaſe. The whole World has entirely rely'd on the Integrity of *John Carpi*, a Phyſician of *Bologna* in *Italy*, who having found in the writings of ſome *Arabians*, that Mercury was very good to cure old Ulcers, he kill'd ſome of it in Hogs-Greaſe, as is practiced at this Day, and apply'd it to an old Ulcer, which had reſiſted all other Remedies, becauſe the Patient had the Pox, a Diſeaſe pretty well known at that Time, as we may ſee in one of *Eraſmus*'s Colloquies, but judg'd then incurable. This Mercurial application was follow'd with a Salivation which did very much ſurprize the Phyſician, who expected nothing leſs than ſuch an Effect. Had he known that Purgatives could cure it, we had perhaps never been acquainted with this Medicine. However he took freſh courage, when he found that as he went on with the Salivation, the Ulcer heal'd. Being therefore by this lucky Chance become Maſter of ſuch a Secret, he got immenſe riches, and as every honeſt Man ought to do, he did at his Death diſcover this Remedy to the World, which has entirely rely'd upon it, without ever ſo much as endeavouring either to prevent thoſe great Inconveniences which attend and follow it, or to find out elſewhere more efficacious, and ſafer, or to ſay all in one Word, leſs cruel Remedies than that.

The firſt Effects of this Diſeaſe are an unwillingneſs to ſtir, a heavineſs all over the Body, a lazy reluctancy to all manner of exerciſe, an invincible deſire of Sleep, a deep Melancholy, and a continual heavineſs of Heart: theſe are the firſt tokens of the Liquids being thicken'd by the Venereal Ferment, which we have Reaſon to judge to be Acid; neither do we know of any other Principle of Coagulation. Theſe firſt progreſſes are followed by flying Pains in all the Limbs, which ſometimes ſettle in the Head, where they cauſe violent

ſhootings: ſometimes in the Stomach, where they cauſe continual Vomitings: ſometimes they lodge in the Breaſt, which makes the Patient think himſelf in a Conſumption, becauſe he coughs much, and ſpits little or nothing; he feels a violent Pain in his Back when he fetches Breath, and ſomething that lies croſs his Stomach, and almoſt ſtops his Breath. Sometimes theſe Pains are felt only in the Fleſh, and the Patient thinks them only Rheumatick; but this pretended Rheumatiſm, though it diſperſes or aſſwages it ſelf very much by perſpiration, whilſt the hot Weather laſts, will return again in cold Weather, at the fall of the Leaf, and in Winter. In a Word, this dreadful Diſeaſe, *Proteus* like, aſſumes the ſhapes of all Diſtempers, and unleſs a Phyſician be a Man of great Experience in this kind, and a diſcreet judicious Man, he will be eaſily miſtaken, and the Variety of the Symptoms will ſo confound him, that if he doth not take a great deal of Care he will (as hath been often done) condemn the Innocent to the Pox, and abſolve the Guilty.

The third degree of the Pox ſhows it ſelf by ſharp, painful, and itching Tetters or Morphew; Puſtules and Scabs on the Face, Head, and moſt Times all over the Body; Ulcers in the Throat, a hard Callofity on the inſide of the Mouth; and by many other terrible Symptoms. Thoſe Shankers which ſeem'd at firſt to give birth to this monſtrous Diſeaſe, and ſoon after diſappear'd, through the Impatience of the ſick Perſon, and often by the unskilfulneſs of the Surgeon, do ſhow themſelves afreſh, and cannot be removed but by an active Remedy of a very diſſolving and penetrating nature. Condilomes appear in the Fundament; 'tis then that the Patient begins to be perſuaded that his Diſtemper is Venereal; in a word, the laſt degree of this Diſeaſe is an exquiſite Pain in the very Bones and Marrow; ſuch an invincible Inſomny, that Opium it ſelf cannot overcome it; A rottenneſs in the Bones, Exoſtoſes, Callous Ulcers in the Arms, Legs and Thighs, which no Remedy, inward or outward, can remove: An extreme leanneſs and lankneſs, attended with an extraordinary weakneſs, which puts the

Physician out of all hopes of his Patient's being able to go through a Salivation: you may likewise observe that sometimes it turns to a Venereal Consumption; many Instances of which we have seen, which we shall mention in their proper place, and it must be owned ingenuously that this last degree is scarce curable.

Reason and Experience confirm this: in the first Stage, the Blood was actually coagulated and condensed by the Vitriolate Leaven, it afterwards becomes more liquid by the Action of the Mercury, and may disentangle it self from the Venereal Poison by Salivation: And as in this Case the Principles of the Blood are not destroy'd, the Patient may be thoroughly recover'd; but if the same Venom has but time enough, by its Acrimonious Salts, to corrode the Sulphur, or Filaments of the Blood, the whole Mass, which in the first Stage was altogether viscous, and too thick, begins to dissolve, because the Sulphur, which in the blood thus fastens and unites all other Principles, is here broke and destroy'd; and this Mass thus dissolv'd, becomes a Serum full of corrosive and caustick Salts, which gnaw the very Flesh and Bones: Coagulations are caus'd sometimes in one Part, and sometimes in another, by reason of the reunion of the shatter'd Sulphurs, which now compose a new kind of Mass, which causes Knots, and Exostoses in the Bones; wherever these Masses do concentre in their Substance, as then they vitrify, and cause the Bone to swell every way very much beyond its natural Diameter. The Fleshy Fibers undergo the same fate, being soak'd with a corrosive Serum, full of such Salts, as turn it into a kind of *Aqua fortis*, which gnaws and totally destroys their Texture, and produces such terrible Ulcers, as often cause those Parts where they are seated, to rott and drop off. These are the fatal fruits of a Disease which Men too often wilfully and rashly expose themselves to.

But in order to give an exact Idea of the Operation of Mercury, let us fairly and impartially examine what this Mineral is, and we shall soon find that it has no Specifick Virtue to cure the Venereal Diseases exclusive of any other

Its Operation is altogether mechanical; and in order to understand it rightly, we muſt not conſider it as having any Affinity in its Principles with any other Mettal or Mineral; it is of a Species entirely peculiar, and we may juſtly wonder that the Partiſans of Acid and Alcali ſhould rank him amongſt the latter, becauſe Acids alone can fix it. The Wheels of a Watch may as well be call'd Alcalies, and the Grains of Duſt which ſtop their Motion Acids. Mercury is a real liquid, and unalterable Mettal, it may indeed receive ſome diſguiſe from Fire, or ſome of the moſt active Salts, but neither the Fire, nor Salts, can alter its Subſtance, or deſtroy its Texture, its Principles eluding all their activity. How many crazy Heads have vainly ſpent their whole Lives and Eſtates to fix this *Proteus*?

We conceive Mercury as a heap of Globules, perfectly round, without being by any thing faſten'd or united to each other, and exceſſively ſmall, inſomuch that every one of them by it ſelf has ſo little gravity, that the Air or Water can bear them up. Experience ſhows it to be ſo, ſince that Water wherein Mercury has been boil'd, acquires its Virtue to ſuch a Degree, as to cauſe a Salivation, if we waſh our Heads with it; this is a fact that admits of ocular demonſtration. Senſe and Reaſon as well a Phyſick muſt convince one, that, although the boil'd Mercury ſeems not to have decreas'd in its Weight, yet ſome of its Globules muſt neceſſarily ſwim in the Water. *Tangere enim & tangi niſi Corpus res, nulla poteſt.* To all theſe qualities of the Globules of Mercury, we may add that their Surface is round, extremely flexible, ſmooth and ſleek; which being granted, it is very eaſy to explain all the various *Phenomena* which this Mineral produces. The exact Roundneſs and Smoothneſs of its Particles is manifeſtly the Cauſe of its exceſſive Mobility. There is no Plain of ſo exact and ſmooth a Surface as to be free from little unevenneſſes and Eminences, ſuch as will deſtroy the Equilibrium of theſe ſmall and perfectly round Bodies; and this is the Reaſon of their being in a perpetual Motion among themſelves. They unite and diſ-unite with the greateſt Facility, becauſe they are not tyed one to another by any Bond: The Water which bears them up, as we ſaid juſt now, their

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being driven up by a ſmall Heat, and diſappearing, their Facility to inſinuate themſelves into the hardeſt Bodies, all theſe ſufficiently prove their extreme Smallneſs. But how ſhall we reconcile this Volatility with their Ponderouſneſs, equal at leaſt to that of Lead? We need but follow our Ideas, and we ſhall account for it. Natural Philoſophers agree that the more compact and cloſe the Parts of a Body are, the heavier that Body is with reſpect to other Bodies, whoſe conſtituent Parts are at greater diſtance one from another, and whoſe Interſtices are only fill'd with Air. A Pound of Cotton would take no more room than one of Lead, if its Particles were as cloſely compacted as thoſe of Lead. The Globules of Mercury, being round, ſmall, ſmooth, and of a metalline Nature, do unite one with another as cloſely as may be, and leave no Spaces betwixt them but what are extremely ſmall; and this is the Reaſon of their Heavineſs, when they are re-united together.

But again, how ſhall we comprehend how ſuch ſmall Bodies, of the Shape and Nature we have been deſcribing theſe to be, can notwithſtanding be ſo congeal'd and hardned, as to appear fix'd, and to have received the Hardneſs of Metal, ſuch as the Alchymiſt gives them; inſomuch that they themſelves have been deceiv'd, and have made no doubt, but they could render that Hardneſs permanent and durable? Let the Reader but conſider that it is impoſſible to diveſt thoſe ſmall Bodies of a foreign Sulphur, which they contract when they are under the form of the Cinabar, which is nothing elſe but common Sulphur, amalgamis'd with Mercury. Let him conſider that Salt-peter, Salt of Tartar, &c. are all more or leſs loaded with Sulphureous Particles, as we have heretofore obſerv'd, and the Difficulty will ſoon diſappear. Theſe Sulphurs ſo eaſily mix on every ſide, being all of the ſame Nature, that they entangle the Globules of Mercury, and keep them aſunder, and, as it were, incloſe'd in the Spaces which happen betwixt the Particles of irregular Figures of which thoſe Sulphurs conſiſt: and as that Bond is only Superficial, without any ways adhering to the inward Subſtance of thoſe Globules, it is eaſily broken by a ſlight

a ſlight Motion or Moderate Heat, and then the Mercury appears in its native Shape without the leaſt Alteration.

All theſe Notions being ſuppos'd, let us ſeriouſly examine what Humane Blood is, upon which Mercury operates. It is a new being, a new Liquor extracted from our food. This new Compound therefore is nothing elſe but a Collection of the Salts of the Aliments, of the Salt with which they are ſeaſon'd, (which is eaſily diſtinguiſh'd in the Analyſis of the Blood, from the alimental Salts) of Sulphur, Water and Earth. It has been found that out of 12 Ounces of Blood, there are 11 of meer Water, in which are the Salts and Sulphurs that ſwim under the form of Filaments, the Globules which cauſe the Senſation of their red Colour, which is more or leſs lively, according as they are further from or nearer to one another; and laſtly the Earth which ſerves, with the other Principles, to maintain in exact Harmony among them, and to keep within a juſt Temperature, and agreeable to the animal Oeconomy, thoſe Savours of which *Hypocrates* ſpeaks. I believe this ſimple Idea of the Blood is ſufficient to explain the Mechaniſm, which is obſerv'd in the Operation of Mercury. It raiſes a Salivation, whether it be us'd by Unction or taken inwardly; by both which ways, it inſinuates it ſelf into the Maſs of Blood; its Activity is encreaſed by the Circulation of the Blood, or by the internal or Fermentative Motion of the Parts of which it conſiſts. It is a Maxim in Mechanicks, that heavy Bodies act not only in Proportion to their Bulk, but likewiſe of their Velocity. A Cannon-ball of 24 Pounds, ſhot with all the Impetuoſity that Powder can give it, is equivalent to a Weight of ſeveral hundred Tuns, as its Effects ſufficiently prove. The Globules of Mercury do roll in the Blood, and ſtrive againſt it both by their Gravity, and by the Motion they receive from the Particles of the Blood it ſelf, and by their vehemently ſhocking againſt them, they are incapable of aſſimilating themſelves to them; ſo that at length they break and tear their Filaments, and reduce them into coarſe Pieces, which ſwim in the Serum as well as the Salts, and theſe being, in part, diſentangled from thoſe

Filaments

Filaments are dissolved in the serum. It is a known Maxim, that they cannot act unless they are dissolved; wherefore they act with such Force, that they rend the Mouth, and ulcerate the Throat, and sometimes suffocate the Patient to Death; but 'tis not the *Venereal* Venim, as many affirm without believing it, and many really believe without endeavouring to persuade others of it: 'tis not I say the *Venereal* Poison as such, that causes such Effects, since they would as well happen to Persons in Health, and free from any *Venereal* Disease: but why doth *Mercury* more precisely salivate, than cause any other Evacuation? The Question is easily resolv'd. For the Filaments of the Blood being but coarsely broken by the Mercury, do indeed indifferently affect to get out at any of the excretory Vessels of the Body; but the Diameters of the Vessels, such as those of Urine, Sweat, and Perspiration, are either too straight to receive such coarse Matter, or are not of a fit Configuration for the Particles of that Matter. The Salival Vessels alone have Diameters wide enough, and fit to receive it; seeing they are actually the largest of all the excretory Vessels in the whole Body. And that is the Reason why in the Small Pox, in Malignant Fevers, in the Scurvy, &c. they often affords Passage to a very thick Saliva, which comes forth naturally and without the help of Mercury. Thus then it is that Mercury dissolves the Blood, and thus it cures the *Venereal* Disease, viz. by exhausting the Mass of the *Venereal* Blood, according to the Observations of several eminent Moderns. This Mass in a middle-sized Man amounts to about 25 Pounds, and in a Salivation a Man spits for some Days, seven eight or nine pounds of Saliva, which is the very Substance of the Blood: sometimes a new Mass doth form it self by little and little, which makes an End of throwing out the *Venereal* Poison; but this happens but seldom. The Pustules begin to appear afresh some Months after, with all the other attendants, which nevertheless are easily cur'd by frequent Purges and Sudorifick Diet-drinks, which in my opinion are only fit for Persons in this Condition. Sometimes after having disappear'd, they return again with evi-

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dent Tokens that the *Venereal* Principle is yet undeſtroy'd. This is the firſt Inconvenience that attends Mercury, *viz.* that it is not an abſolute and infallible Remedy. The ſecond Inconvenience is, the Difficulty of meaſuring out a juſt and proper Doſe for every Patient in Unction; for a Miſtake in this is often attended with very fatal Conſequences. The third Inconvenience is, that the gentleſt Salivation ought always to be look'd upon as a very cruel Remedy, eſpecially becauſe it wants actually the three chief Characters which a good Medicine ought to have; which, according to *Hippocrates*, ought to cure quickly, ſurely, and pleaſantly. The fourth Inconvenience that attends Mercury, is the ſad Impreſſion it ſometimes leaves on the Members after its Operation. Having conſider'd the Miſery of thoſe Patients, who, to get cur'd of a Diſeaſe, grievous enough it muſt be own'd, expoſe themſelves to ſo many grievous Sufferings, liable to ſuch fatal Conſequences, without any ſure, undoubted Grounds to hope for a perfect Cure without Relapſe, or that they ſhall ſuffer but a moderate Puniſhment, may even without any probable Hope that they ſhall eſcape Death, under the Operation of this Remedy; I have apply'd my ſelf to the Search of a Medicine which might not be liable to ſo many Accidents. I conceiv'd, that the Way of Salivating, which is ſo violent, was not the Way which Nature had appointed to diſcharge thoſe Impurities with which it is overwhelm'd; it has appear'd to me more reaſonable to deſtroy that unnatural Leaven, by driving it out by the natural Ways of Evacuation, which alone ſuffice to precipitate the vitiated Leaven of other Diſeaſes, tho' as dangerous, and attended with as dreadful Symptoms as thoſe of the Pox. Prepoſſeſs'd with this Notion, which follows the Order of Nature, I thought, that a Medicine that was very diſſolving, very active and penetrating, which gently works by Stool, Sweat and Urine, might juſtly ſupply the Place of Mercury; and I hope I have at length attain'd it. A Man cannot, without ſhutting his Eyes to the Light, and giving the Lie to the firſt Phyſicians in the Kingdom, who have been ocular Witneſſes of it, deny but that this Medicine carries off, in a few Days, the

moſt dreadful Symptoms of the Pox. The moſt intelligent Maſters of the Faculty, who tho' incredulous at firſt, and full of their ancient Prejudice, oppos'd with Might and Main, both my Remedy, which they were ignorant of, and my Method of Curing, have at length been forced to yield to ocular Demonſtration, and have ſince honour'd me with their Friendſhip and Eſteem, and retracted the raſh Judgment they had paſs'd againſt me; neither have they granted me thoſe Favours, which they before deny'd me, till they have had a full Conviction and Satisfaction in the matter; but have waited a long while to ſee whether the ſo quick Effects of this new Remedy would prove laſting, or whether they were not rather palliative Cures, which would only deceive the Patient with a ſhort-liv'd Joy: But after Months and Years were elaps'd, they have ſeen the Patients entirely recover'd, and not only continue in good Plight, but in a better State of Health than ever they enjoy'd. And thus much I dare affirm, that thoſe who have truſted themſelves into my Hands, have reaſon to be ſatisfy'd with me. This I can anſwer for, that my Remedy is in all Reſpects preferable to Salivation, and that it takes away the moſt dreadful Symptoms in a much ſhorter time; and this it does by carrying off the Diſtemper by the moſt natural Ways, *i. e.* Stools, Sweat and Urine, as we ſaid before; and conſequently never cauſes any racking Pain, ſeeing it works inſenſibly, and without ſo much as diſordering the Patient, or taking him off from his uſual Buſineſs: It neither tears the Mouth, nor ulcerates the Throat, and ſalival Veſſels, even to the ſpitting of Blood, and voiding it by Stool, as we have ſeen it happen by Salivations; it doth not looſen the Teeth, nor break the Bridge of the Noſe; it doth not lame the Patient; it doth not oblige a Man to make his Will; in a word, it kills no body. If all theſe Advantages don't give the Preference to my Medicine, I ſhall think thoſe Phyſicians very unhappy, who ſpend their Lives and Health in Search of Means to reſtore that of Mankind, if they for whom they take ſuch Pains muſt reject whatſoever is found uſeful for the Preſervation of their Lives, to the very laſt Moments of it. I am naturally ſincere and ingenuous;

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I don't pretend that my Remedy is either the *Ens Veneris* of *Paracelſus*, the *Stone* of *Butler*, or the *Alcaeſt* of *Van Helmont*; I only ſay, that it is very active, diſſolving, and one of the moſt penetrating, and conſequently the propereſt to break the Texture of the Blood, to take away the Obſtructions of the *Viſcera*, and to carry of all heterogeneous Matters, and conſequently to purify the whole Maſs of Blood. Could I, without being confirm'd by infallible Experience, advance here, that my Remedy will cure ſome Degrees of the Pox which Mercury cannot? *John Curpi*, Inventor of the Uſe of Mercury, did at his Death communicate his Diſcovery to the World; I hope in a ſhort time, and without ſtaying till that laſt Moment, to communicate mine likewiſe. I have as yet diſcover'd it to no one, except to the famous *M. de Chirac*, who has been an Eye-witneſs of ſeveral Cures I have perform'd with it, as we ſhall more fully ſhew by and by.

The Importance of the Subject has oblig'd me to dwell the longer upon Mercury, it being alone ſufficient to ſhew the vaſt Difference there is between the Vertues of Metals and Minerals, and that of Vegetables in chronical Diſtemper; the former are ſtill preferable on two Accounts: They diſſolve the too thick Liquids, and carry off the Principle of the Diſeaſe either by precipitating it by Stool or Urine, or by driving it out by Sweat and inſenſible Perſpiration. The Diſſolvents which are drawn from Vegetables, ſuch as *Gum-Ammoniacum*, commonly never purge. The purgative and ſudorifick ones, *&c.* receive ſome Alteration in the Stomach by the digeſtive Ferment, which diveſts them of their purgative Quality. And, laſtly, thoſe that diſſolve and purge at once, ſuch as *Colocynth*, *Scammony*, *Gum-Gutta*, *Euphorbium*, *Elaterium*, *&c.* greatly torment and gripe the Patient in their Operation; but the Manner in which the Mineral ones, Antimony, for inſtance, do operate, is vaſtly different; its *Stimuli* being entangled in the ſulphureous Salts of Tartar or Salt-petre, which quickly diſſolve in the Stomach, do irritate the Membranes of it, or to ſpeak more juſtly, cauſe Convulſions in the Muſcles of the Ventricle; for, according to the Diſcovery of the illuſtrious *M. de Chirac*, in Vomiting,

the Stomach is entirely quiet and paſſive: The Muſcles alone act, and with great Violence preſs the Stomach and Bowels. This great Phyſician made the Experiment of it upon a Dog, that had ſwallow'd ſome corroſive Sublimate. He ript his Belly open, and with his Hand grip'd the Dog's Stomach, which had no Action at all whilſt the Dog did ſtrain to vomit; but he found it extraordinarily preſs'd, as well as his Hand that held it, by the Muſcles of the Ventricle. The great Anatomiſt, *M. du Verney*, having try'd the ſame Experiment, did own the Truth of this Diſcovery. When the *Stimuli* of the Antimony cannot diſentangle themſelves from the Tartar or Salt-petre in the Stomach, whether by reaſon of ſome particular Diſpoſition of that Part, or becauſe they are too fix'd by the Salts, they paſs into the Bowels, where they are looſen'd by the Choler, the pancreatick Juices, or by the Chyle, which is here become more ſubtle and penetrating, by the Precipitation of the groſſer Matter: They begin then to ſtimulate the inward Membrane of the Bowels, their vermicular Motion increaſes, and throws off thoſe coarſer Mattens that were in them. When thoſe *Stimuli* are very well fix'd, by a great Quantity of Tartar or Salt-petre, as in the *Antimonium Diaphoreticum*, they ſlide along with the Chyle into the Blood, and mix themſelves with all manner of Humours, by which they are diſſolv'd, and let looſe, and thrown upon all the Membranes of the Veſſels, where they excite ſome gentle Irritations, whether becauſe the Salts, which curb their Activity, are not yet entirely ſeparated from them, nor totally melted, or becauſe thoſe ſharp Points were but few in Quantity, or very much blunted by the violent Action of the chymical Fire: As it happens in the *Lilium Paracelſi*. The Tonick Motion of the Membranes being thus increas'd, they, by their elaſtick Power, drive the Blood with greater Force, the Pulſe becomes more vigorous, and all the animal Functions are reviv'd. The Nerves which are in or about the Glands being more ſtrongly contracted, preſs them the more in Proportion to the Liquor which they ſend into the ſecretory and excretory Veſſels, after they have filtrated it, and with the ſame Swiftneſs as the Arteries which join

to thoſe Glands, bring the Blood into them. The Secretion by Urine, Sweat, and inſenſible Perſpiration, is conſiderably increas'd, and the Blood thereby purg'd from its Foulneſs. On the other hand, the Sulphurs of the Antimony diſſolve the Liquids, blunt their Acidity, or ſheath it in ſuch manner, that they can no longer hurt in their Paſſage by Perſpiration or Urine. Experience confirms our Reaſon in this Matter. *Horſtius* has obſerv'd, *Lib.* 7. *Obſ.* 27. that thoſe Diſeaſes which are caus'd by Exhalations from Metals and Minerals, cannot be cur'd but by metalline and mineral Remedies. The Aſthma, which is caus'd by the Fumes of Metals, but eſpecially thoſe of Mercury, will not be overcome by any ordinary Medicines, but requires mineral or metalline ones, ſuch as *Mercurius Dulcis*, *Turbith Mineral*, *Cinabar Antimonii*, *Benzoarticum Solare*, join'd to ſome Purgatives. Laſtly, Mineral Waters, which ſometimes are the only and the laſt Reſort in chronical Diſeaſes, are here likewiſe our laſt but deciſive Refuge, and prove that Metals and Minerals afford the greateſt Remedies in the moſt deſperate Diſeaſes. Some of them are Ferruginous and Vitriolick, their volatile Sulphur inſinuates it ſelf with great Rapidity into the Liquors, diſſolves them, and removes all the Obſtructions and Obſtacles which are occaſion'd by their Viſcoſity: Their harſh Taſte fortifies the ſolid Parts by contracting their Fibres, and exciting their elaſtick Force, which was languiſhing and obſtructed by a too inſpiſſated Liquid. It likewiſe contracts the Fibres of the Blood, and precipitates whatſoever might alter its Texture. Others have a lixivious Salt, mix'd with a certain Quantity of Sulphur: Others have a nitrous Salt, join'd likewiſe with a Sulphur, from which an Urinous Spirit, or a volatile Alcali, is form'd: Some are meerly vitrioline, with a ſmall Quantity of Earth; Others are alluminous, and this Salt may be form'd into a Chryſtal, like that of Allom: Others are very hot, and full of a very ſubtil Sulphur, becauſe they cool very quickly; and this Sulphur is full of one of the moſt volatile Salts: Now the Experience of all Ages ſhews that all mineral and metalline Waters are generally the laſt Refuge in all grievous Diſtempers. 'Tis now high time

to

to conclude this Diſſertation, by anticipating ſome Objections which might be rais'd againſt me.

And, Firſt, It may be objected here, that Remedies extracted from Metals and Minerals are ſharp, cauſtick, and real Poiſons; but have not ſome Vegetables the like Defect? Are Tin, Iron, Lead, *&c.* hurtful? As for the Notion of Antimony and Mercury being Poiſons, it has laſted till the Middle of the laſt Century; *Van Helmont* himſelf was not exempt from this Prejudice: *Antimonium*, ſays he, *quamdiu vomitum aut ſedes movet, & Mercurius revivificari poteſt, Venena ſunt, nec viri boni Remedia.* The Parliament of *Paris* condemn'd Antimony as a Poiſon. The Experiment which *Lewis* XIV. made of it upon himſelf began to undeceive the World; it cur'd him contrary to all Appearance: And the emetick Sort began to be publickly uſed. It did not indeed ſucceed upon Cardinal *Mazarine*, and ſo fell into Contempt for a while; but the dreadful Notion People had conceiv'd of it, leſſen'd by little and little, and it has gain'd the Character of the beſt of Medicines, eſpecially againſt acute Diſeaſes, when order'd by an able Phyſician who knows the Nature of it. Let but the Chymiſt be expert and well skill'd in the Preparation of this and all others, and let the Phyſician be diſcreet, and wait for the ſeaſonable Opportunity of applying them, and theſe pretended Poiſons will turn into the beſt and moſt excellent Remedies; than which the Wit and Induſtry of Man has never hitherto been able to find better: For the Truth of this I appeal to the practical Phyſicians. If Mercury is of it ſelf a Poiſon, why doth it, when crude and without any Preparation, deſtroy the Venereal Venom ſo much more efficaciouſly than when it is prepar'd, *i. e.* mix'd with Salts? How comes it, that we may put half a Pound of crude Antimony into a Diet-Drink without the leaſt Danger? Is there a more terrible Poiſon than *Corroſive Sublimate?* And yet the Chymiſts have ſo far ſweeten'd it, that it becomes one of the gentleſt, and moſt uſeful, of all Medicines. Are not the Spirits of Vitriol and Salt-petre diveſted of all their corroſive and cauſtick Acrimony by *Rectification?* The natural Cinabar looſes its Arſenick by *Sublimations*, *Coctions*, and *Lotions*. How many grievous and

and deſperate Diſeaſes have been cur'd by theſe corrected Remedies? The Vertigo, Epilepſy, Pleuriſy, hyſterick and hypocondriack Suffocations, Cholick, the Flying Gout, Rheumatiſm, the Great-Pox, the moſt obſtinate Itch, Tetters, Small-Pox, and the like. Thoſe Phyſicians who dread the Uſe of theſe Medicines, are either very ignorant, or very careleſs; for it requires Labour and Study to be well acquainted with them. If they do not always ſucceed, (as there is no Remedy infallible) let it but be narrowly look'd into, and it will be found, either that they were not well prepar'd, or that they were unſeaſonably apply'd and ill tim'd; and then 'tis the Fault either of the Artiſt or the Phyſician, and not of the Medicines. If a due Regard was had in the Adminiſtration of them, to all the Circumſtances of Age, Sex, Strength, Climate, Food, Habit of Body, the Character and various Degrees of a Diſeaſe, the Remedy would ſucceed better, and not be made a Cloak to cover the want of Judgment and Ability either in the Phyſician or the Artiſt.

The *Germans*, *Hollanders*, and all the Northern Inhabitants, eſteem ſome metalline Tinctures as precious Remedies, ſuch as the *Lilium Paracelſi*, and even Lime-Water, which is given inwardly with Milk in *Holland* againſt the Phtyſick, and with good Succeſs; but in *France*, where the Air is ſharper, and the Bodies more tender, ſuch Remedies are not ſo ſucceſsful, by reaſon of their too great Acrimony. Thoſe of both Sexes which could find no Relief from the Waters of *Bourbon* and *Vichy*, have been cur'd by the Water out out of the *Smith*'s Forge: Metals and Minerals afford us all ſorts of Remedies, and it is the Phyſicians Buſineſs to apply them at Need. But it may be farther objected, that a Diſſolvent ought to be homogeneous, or of the ſame Nature with what we deſign to diſſolve. Water is the Diſſolvent of Salts, Vegetables are more aqueous than Metals and Minerals, they will conſequently be more proper to diſſolve Coagulations than theſe two laſt, becauſe thoſe Coagulations are caus'd by too fixed Salts; but it doth not always hold true, that they are produc'd by Salts. The Gelly of Broth, which continues

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liquid as long as it is warm, grows thick as it grows cold, and its Particles ceaſe to be agitated by the ſwelling Heat.

The Particles of ſulphureous, reſinous, gummy, oily, and fat Liquids, extracted from the Animals and Vegetables we feed upon, do congeal when the Heat or Motion which did cauſe their Agitation is ceas'd. Now it would be very ridiculous to pretend to diſſolve ſuch ſulphureous, reſinous Subſtances by an aqueous Diſſolvent. Among all the Salts, there is but one which is an acid fixed vitrioline Salt, that can cauſe any Coagulation. This Salt is the Principle of the *Hypocondria*, *Yellow-Jaundice*, and the like. Now we muſt take great Care not to diſſolve this Salt, for it would cauſe very great Diſorders whenever it came to infuſe it ſelf into the Liquids: It muſt be ſweeten'd, and abſorb'd in ſome Metallick, ſuch as Iron, and then carry'd off by Purgatives. I own, that our chymical Medicines often require an aqueous Vehicle, which may facilitate their Acceſs into the coagulated Liquids: The rapid Motion of the Particles of theſe Remedies being mix'd with the Liquids, ſeparates and diſperſes their tenacious and viſcous Particles, and gives them ſome Share of their Activity. However, we don't pretend to ſtrike out of the *Materia Medica* all the Remedies that are not either metallick ot mineral, there are ſome Caſes in which Vegetables are to be preferr'd; we only affirm, that Metals and Minerals are the only Remedies capable to carry off long, obſtinate, and deſperate Diſtempers.

It will perhaps be farther objected, that ſome Caſes require refreſhing and moiſtning Remedies. I grant it; but I would likewiſe obſerve, that an expert Chymiſt knows how to extract ſome acid Liquors from Minerals and Metals calcin'd, and expos'd for ſome time to the Air, and afterwards diſtill'd by a gentle Heat: Which Liquors are very moiſtning and refreſhing. By this means ſome are extracted from Iron, ſome from Copper, Tin, Antimony, Vitriol, &c. That which is drawn from Vitriol has ſcarce any Taſte, and is of great Efficacy in Vomitings, and Inflammations of the Reins, Bladder, and other Parts; and in Apoſtumations of the Womb, Liver and Spleen.

But,

But, after all, what Diseases may not be cur'd without the Help of Humectants, and what Drought will not be allay'd by moistning Aliments, Water, Barley, Sweet Almonds, Lettice, Purslane, Prunes, Currants, *&c.* And if these fail, those which are from any other kind of Vegetables will prove ineffectual. Neither are moistning Remedies alone sufficient to recover the too dry'd Entrails, but the dry'd Membranes will acquire new Vigour by proper metalline Medicines, which increase their Motion, and gently contract their Fibres, which will therefore more closely embrace the Aliments, which insensibly moisten and refresh them.

If it be farther urg'd, that the Substance of the Body is soft and moist, and the Liquids of a Sweetness like that of Milk, and that Metals and Minerals, on the contrary, are corrosive, and capable of causing great Disorders in the Body; we answer, that our Design is not here to cry down, or to forbid absolutely the Use of Vegetables; we pretend only to affirm, that the use of Metals and Minerals is more efficacious, because they more powerfully excite the too relax'd Fibres of the Membranes, and restore them to their Tonick Motion, which we can hardly expect from the other sort of Medicines. *Paracelsus* has taught us, that old malignant Ulcers, which no vegetable Remedy could cure, have easily yielded to Minerals. What sure Remedy can be apply'd in the *Hypochondria*, inveterate Melancholy, the Spleen, Old Jaundice, and the like, than Iron? Vertigoes tho' never so obstinate, Epilepsy, and continual Head-Aches, against which all Medicines drawn from Vegetables prove ineffectual, are nevertheless remov'd by those which are drawn from Cinabar. The Use of well prepar'd antimonial Medicines cures the most inward and deepest Abcesses, and hidden Fistulas, where Vegetables are ineffectual. If we seriously consider all these things, we may justly expect very great Helps from well prepar'd mineral and metalline Remedies, without any manner of Danger. An expert Artist knows how to divest them of their Corrosiveness, and render them safe and harmless.

Another Difficulty may be rais'd, viz. that since the gravest Men can scarce bear some Metals and Minerals, much

leſs will the moderate Heat of the Stomach and Bowels be able to do it. Let us but conſider, that there are ſeveral Matters, which will contract themſelves, and grow harder with a ſtrong Fire, which will diſſolve with a moderate Heat. Salts of different Kinds, expos'd to a great Fire, will hook one in another, and ſtrongly reunite and ſuſtain the moſt impetuous Force of Fire; whereas, if you but mix with them the Quadruple of Aſhes, or any other Body that is ſomewhat hard, they will diſſolve with a ſlow and gentle Fire. The ſame thing happens to Metals. Salts, Iron, Copper, Mercury, Antimony, *&c.* will by a gentle Decoction quickly yield their Tinctures in common Water; and why may not the ſame thing happen in human Bodies, and even much quicker, ſeeing they are not taken till they have been very much open'd by the Chymiſt's Labour? We eaſily grant, that Metals have a Virtue altogether fixed; and that's the Reaſon why they are ſo fit to become excellent Diſſolvents. Their Nature can't receive any Alteration in our Bodies, and it is a great Misfortune when it doth, for ſuch a Change ought only to happen to our Food. From thence ariſes another Objection, *viz.* that it is not therefore fitte to uſe ſuch powerful Diſſolvents, when we are apprehenſive of a too great Colliquation, whether from the Diſſolvent, or from the Nature of the Diſeaſe. Without amuſing our ſelves any longer with ſuch Subtilties; we own it true, that ſuch kind of Colliquations happen in Sciatick, Phyſick, and other conſumptive Caſes. We may likewiſe affirm from Experience, that ſuch Kinds of Diſtempers are ſometimes cur'd by the Phlegm of Vitriol, and by a long Uſe of well prepar'd Antimonials, which will likewiſe cure the Ulcers of a Fiſtula. Every body knows the *Antimonium* of *Potier*, which is of ſo ſingular Uſe in the *Hoſtiſis* and *Phyſis*, and is only a Compound of Tin and Antimony. There is nothing more powerful than the *Terra dulcis Vitrioli*, after its Salt is taken away, to cure Ulcers, Wounds and Hæmorrhoids, and if given inwardly, it will cure Fevers, and aſſuage the Pain of the Gout, cure the Dropſy, Phyſick, Ulcers in the Bowels, and the unnatural Running of any kind of Humour. The *Res Vitrioli* aſſuages the moſt violent

Pains in the Head, if taken for ſome Days; it likewiſe aſſuages the burning Heat of the Blood, and fortifies the Brain and Entrails. Has any thing hitherto been found out more efficacious than Allom for Wounds, and Hæmorrages inward or outward? Can any Remedy more quickly, more ſafely and pleaſantly, quench the burning Heat of a Feaver, diſſolve a troubleſome Phlegm, and ſtop the Violence of inflam'd Choler, than acid Spirits, otherwiſe call'd metallick Vinegars? In a word, the Head-Ach will be cur'd by the Tincture of Silver, Obſtructions are remov'd by Iron and Mercury, hyſterick Paſſions by Salt of Tin, Inflammations by Salt of Lead, all unnatural Heats by the Spirits of Vitriol, of Salt and Sulphur: In ſhort, if we conſider things thoroughly, we ſhall find as many Remedies againſt chronick Diſtempers, as there are Metals and Minerals, and with this difference, that Vegetables may indeed be of Service in the firſt, but that there is hardly any other Help againſt the laſt.

Never did *Hippocrates* contribute more to the Advancement of Phyſick, and the Inſtruction of Phyſicians, than when he gave us a Hiſtory of the Diſeaſes he had under his Care, and has inform'd us of the good or bad Succeſs of his Preſcriptions. He writes thoſe Hiſtories with ſuch Plainneſs and honeſt Simplicity, as, in the Opinion of the wiſeſt Men, turns as much to his Honour, as his great Knowledge and bright Parts have commanded their Eſteem. This, indeed, is ſacrificing one's Vanity to the publick Good, a Deed which Men of a lower Genius are incapable of; none but thoſe whom Nature has deſign'd to become really great, can attain to that Heighth of Generoſity. What Man can pretend to ſo vaſt and extenſive Knowledge as this Father of Phyſick? No Man's Arrogance as yet has gone ſo far. Above two thouſand Years are elaps'd, during which this Prince of Phyſicians has enjoy'd this Glory without a Rival; the brighteſt Men of all the ſucceeding Ages having only aſpir'd to the Honour of being his Diſciples, without any Hope of ever coming up to him. This ſo univerſal Eſteem is a convincing Proof that it is founded upon ſuch an Ability as no Man has, ſince him, been able to acquire. But why ſhou'd

ſuch a Man as I pretend to ſpeak of ſuch deep Knowledge, to which the whole World has ſubmitted? I ſhould think my ſelf very happy if I could but be Maſter of the ſmalleſt Portion of it. When, therefore, I imitate *Hippocrates* in writing, as he did, the Hiſtory of my Patients, I ſet aſide his Knowledge, and only pretend to his Sincerity and Honeſty; 'tis this alone I value my ſelf upon. I quote ſo many ocular Witneſſes of what I affirm, who could ſo eaſily contradict me, that I flatter my ſelf, my very Enemies will hardly think that I would deceive the World, and gain their Eſteem and Confidence, by a pack of Forgeries, and romantick Accounts of Diſeaſes and Cures that were never perform'd. But let my Enemies ſay and think what they pleaſe; the Teſtimony which my Conſcience, and ſo many Perſons of Honour, ſome of them the moſt dignify'd of the Faculty, bear me, will make me reſt ſatisfy'd both as to the Truth of the Facts, and the Faithfulneſs with which I relate them. The greateſt Truths, and ſuch as are now acknowledg'd by all the learned World, have ſuffer'd very much in the Authors of their Diſcovery; ſome have been drag'd into the Inquiſition; others have rotted in ſtinking Priſons; others have hardly eſcap'd being torn in pieces by the Populace; who do not care to be undeceiv'd, or to be told that there are Ways and Methods which they knew not; they think it impoſſible they ſhould have been in an Error for ſome Thouſands of Years, or that any Man ſhould at laſt have thought better in Phyſick than *Ariſtotle* did. This is what happen'd to the great *Des Cartes*, whoſe Philoſophy, as we obſerv'd before, met with great Oppoſition; till at length, the World was forc'd to relent, and their Pride being fallen down at the Feet of this great Man, they have own'd that they had been in an Error till he undeceiv'd them. I am very far from thinking that I have done in Phyſick what that great Perſon has done in Natural Philoſophy. My whole Merit, if I may ſo call it, is, that I have taken Pity of Mankind, expos'd to the Fury of Mercury, and have try'd all Means to find out a Way of curing the moſt grievous of all Diſeaſes, without running the Patient into Dangers, or expoſing him

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to the Terror of a Remedy which is more cruel than the very Diſeaſe. I have been very cautious and fearful during the firſt Years, whilſt under the Uncertainty of the Event, but it has continued for five or ſix Years ſo ſucceſsful, that I may, without Temerity, flatter my ſelf that my Endeavours have been crown'd with Succeſs; in which my Conſcience bears me witneſs that I have always aim'd at the publick Good more than my own Profit; and this the World will one Day be convinc'd of, when I ſhall make it a Preſent both of my Remedy and Method. How great will be my Happineſs, to leave behind me a ſafe Way to deliver Mankind from an Evil which aſſaults him in the very Womb, and to do it without Danger? Let us now begin the Thread of our Hiſtory, and deſcribe the Diſeaſe, without diſcovering the Patients, or even mentioning any Circumſtances which might render them ſuſpected.

In the Month of *April*, 1716. *M. de Chirac* was conſulted by a Lord who had undergone two Salivations, and for forty Days had taken a prodigious Quantity of Diet-Drinks, ſo much cry'd up by ſeveral Perſons; which did not hinder his Throat being eaten up with dreadful Ulcers, nor the *Condilomata* in the *Anus*, nor the *Puſtules* in his Arms, Legs, and Thighs, which join'd to a cruel *Inſomny*, had almoſt thrown the Patient into Deſpair. *M. de Chirac* adviſ'd him to undergo a third Salivation, but what Likelihood was there he ſhould conſent to it? Being deſir'd by him to tell what he thought of my Remedy, his Anſwer was, that he thought it a good Palliative, but incapable of eradicating the Diſeaſe. The next Day I had a Conference with *M. de Chirac*: I made no Difficulty of acquainting him with the Compoſition, upon which he alter'd his Mind, and agreed with me that it might cure, but that Experience would ſoon decide it. I undertook the Gentleman, whoſe Phyſician was *M. Fourneau*, Doctor Regent to the Faculty of *Paris*, and my Patient was ſo thoroughly cur'd in Five and twenty Days, in the Sight of thoſe two Gentlemen, that he continues ſtill in perfect Health.

The Miſtreſs of this Lord, who was become blind, and cover'd with a kind of Leproſy from Head to Foot, was

cur'd

cur'd in leſs than a Month, and the moſt terrible Symptoms diſappear'd in eight Days.

The ſame Year another Lord, who had run from Faculty to Faculty, being tormented with a Venereal Hypocondria, which had joined it ſelf to the other Venereal Symptoms, came out of my hands perfectly cur'd in a Month's time.

The ſame Year 1716, a very conſiderable Perſon apply'd himſelf to me, he told me he had been ſalivated twice under the Conduct of the greateſt Surgeon in the Kingdom, that ſince then he had loſt his Sight. A Tetter ſpread it ſelf from his upper Lip to the *Sutura Coronalis*. I muſt own ingenuouſly, that I had but ſmall Hopes of curing him, but I was ſurpriz'd to find that my Remedy in eight Days time, quite took away his Blindneſs and Tetter. He has continued very well ever ſince. *M. Baſſat*, firſt Phyſician to his Highneſs the late Duke of *Berry*, was Witneſs to this Cure.

In the Year 1717, a Muſketeer own'd to me, that he had had two Bubo's above eight Years, which being ill cur'd had caus'd ſeveral Shankers, and a *Phimoſis*, which I was oblig'd to cut. At his deſire I lay'd him down in a Salivation, which did not appear till he had been anointed ſeven Times, proceeded by all neceſſary Preparations. His Caſe became ſo terrible that the Phyſicians I call'd to him, which were *Meſſieurs Chirac*, *Fourneau*, and *Baſſat*, were amaz'd at it. He continued ſeventeen Days in this dreadful Condition, which can hardly be imagin'd ſo bad as it really was. At laſt I reſolv'd to make him take, though with great Difficulty, ſome Grains of my Salt diſſolv'd in a proper Vehicle, and in half an Hour after, he fell into a violent Sweat, and Looſeneſs, but all theſe frightful Symptoms diſappear'd, as if it had been by Enchantment, and only a gentle Salivation remain'd. The Cure was happily perfected, and ſome Officers whom I dare not name, were Witneſſes of this, as well as of the ingratitude of the Patient's Relations.

This Year Dr. *Fournaus* ſaw a Child not above 9 Years of age, *Malitiâ prævenit ætatem*, that had a Clap, Shankers, Gleet, and a Chryſtaline, whom I throughly cur'd in a Months time, of which Cure the ſaid Doctor was an Eye witneſs.

The

The same Year a Woman, who was troubl'd with Shankers, Pustules, Exostoses, &c. Consulted *Messieurs Fourneau* and *Bassas* before quoted: They judged her incurable; and yet in 30 days time I so throughly cur'd her, that she owns to this day she never was better in her Life; and this without any Avocation from her usual Business.

In 1718, a Soldier, the Bridge of whose Nose was rotted, full of Ulcers, &c. was cur'd in two Months, without being hindred from performing his Duty as usual. Several Lords who knew him had the Curiosity to see him.

The same Year a charitable Curate of a very large Parish in *Paris*, recommended to the Officers of Health belonging to the Alms-Houses, a poor young Woman, whom they judg'd incurable, and so sent her back again. This good Pastor sent for me, and in ten Days time, I put her in a Condition to go about her usual Business, and afterwards she was perfectly cur'd.

In 1719, a poor Coachman was come out of the Hands of some of the Hospital Surgeons, where he had undergone a Salivation, lost an Eye, had several Holes in the Urethra, so that his water run from him insensibly, he had Shankers, and a very stubborn Insomny, and was grown so lean, that he was really frightful; this was all he got by Salivation. Him I restor'd to such a perfect Health, that he now serves the Count *De Brancas* as Coachman.

In 1720, a Woman of about forty Years of Age came to me, whom I judg'd to be in a Consumption, and incurable. The next Day I saw her with *M. De Chirac* and *Fourneau*, who pronounced her Case to be Venereal; but though I could not presently give into their Opinion, I was nevertheless soon convinced both of my Errour, and of the great Penetration of that great Physician. The Woman, ashamed to be so discovered, own'd that about Twenty one or Twenty two Years ago, she had a Clap, and a Shanker, which however she pretended to have been cur'd of. She had not us'd my Remedy above one Month, before she was cur'd of her pretended Phthisick, and convinced of her mistake; This made me to look

look upon *M. De Chirac* to be one of the greatest Physicians of this Age. She had gone three Years with her Back bent, and her Legs could hardly bear her weight. I gave her my Remedy, twelve Hours after which she brought up above three-score Worms, and some time after she began to walk upright and freely. *M. De Chirac* would be an Eye witness of so singular an effect. I sent the Woman afterwards into the Country to drink new Milk.

In 1721. In the Month of *April*, there was an Officer of the King's Houshold, of above fifty Years of Age, who had been troubled with the Pox above twenty Years, and had contented himself with assuaging his Pain with Palliatives, which had made the Disease more inveterate and stubborn; He was become a mere Skeleton, and sometimes would fall backward through Excess of Pain, when he only set his Foot on the Ground: *M. Bessat* was his Physician: I refus'd a great while to undertake him, but was at last overcome by his Persuasions. I gave him my Remedy, and twelve Hours after, he was taken with such a Deafness, as extremely surpriz'd us. I sought for help from the very Remedy, which had caus'd such an unexpected Symptom: I gave him a treble doze, and twelve Hours after his taking it, such corrosive suppurated Matter came out of both his Ears, and in such a plentiful manner, that it gnawed the very Skin. He recovered his hearing instantly; eight Days after, all the Symptoms vanish'd, and the Cure was soon after perfected. The famous *M. Dodart*, whose very name sounds his Praise, first Physician to the King, saw the Gentleman, questioned him, and at length agreed that he was cur'd.

A Lady that had been ill above twenty Years, was directed to me by *M. Rouille*, Counselor of State, and Physician in ordinary to the King, and first Physician to the Queen, in the Month of *August* the last Year. She complained of violent Pains in her Knees, Legs and Feet, her Legs were excessively lean; in Winter she could not sleep unless she had them wrapt in Cloaths, that had been dipt in the coldest Water; and in Summer the warmest Furs could not keep them

warm

warm. I own that I attributed all theſe whimſical Symptoms to an hyſterick Paſſion. I made uſe of ſeveral Medecines recommended in ſuch Caſes by the moſt famous Practitioners, but without any Succeſs; on the contrary ſhe grew worſe and worſe, I adviſ'd the Lady to have a Conſultation and to my great Satisfaction ſhe nam'd *M. De Chirac*, whom ſhe ſaid ſhe was acquainted with. This great Man, having had an account of every thing, told me that I had been groſly miſtaken, as many other Phyſicians had been through whoſe Hands the Lady had paſt, and that her diſtemper was the Pox. I was ſtruck with Amazement at ſuch a Judgment, not knowing his Reaſons for paſſing it. But he made me ſenſible of it, and I no longer doubted either of the Nature of the Diſeaſe, or the ſuperior knowledge of that great Phyſician, I had already too many Proofs of it. The Lady no leſs ſurpriz'd than I, own'd ſhe had had a Clap about twenty Years ago, and a Shanker, both which, ſhe ſaid, had been cur'd. This Confeſſion ſilenc'd me from oppoſing any longer *M. De Chirac*'s Opinion, and I was fully convinc'd of it by the ſpeedy Cure of the Lady; for ſhe us'd my Remedy but one Month, and ſhe is entirely free from even the leaſt degree of Pain.

About the ſame Time *M. Boudin*, Phyſician in Ordinary to the King, was conſulted about a Girl of ſeven Years of Age, who had a virulent Running, almoſt as violent as any Woman could have at Twenty; ſhe had likewiſe Shankers. M. *Boudin* was pleas'd to call me; upon Examination we found that her Father had the Pox when ſhe was begotten. I judged her incurable; *M. Boudin* was not of my Mind; I gave her my Remedy, and ſhe is to all appearance perfectly Cur'd: Time will ſhow it.

Theſe Inſtances ſhall ſuffice; not but I could produce many more, but if this Number doth not convince the Publick of the Uſefulneſs and Efficacy of my Remedy and Method, a much greater would not do it; they will be ſatisfactory to thoſe who are capable of judging without Prejudice or Paſſion; as for thoſe who ſuffer themſelves to be

carry'd away by Envy, Partiality, and Animosity, they would resist even the Evidence of Miracles*

QUESTION.

Whether there be safer Ways of curing the Venereal Disease than that of Salivation?

THIS dreadful Disease, which is at once the Fruit and Punishment of rash and promiscuous Lewdness, seems to consist essentially in a fix'd vitrioline Acid; which displays it self sooner or later, according to the Age, Sex, Seasons, and the Diversity of Diet observ'd by the Patients. This vitiated Ferment, which infects the Humours, corrupts them very quickly in some, and in others very slowly. This Leaven corrupts both the Liquids and Solids, and *Protheus* like, deceives the most Clear-sighted and Cautious. Sometimes it appears like a Leprosy, sometimes like a Scurvy, and the Physician can hardly help being mistaken, without the Confession of the Patient; for this kind of Disease receives its Origine only from the Commerce of both Sexes together, whereas the Leprosy and Scurvy are sometimes caus'd only by an irregular Diet, which vitiates the Humours in the first Digestion. Let a discreet Physician spare as much as possible the Modesty of the Patient, let him diligently compare the Pathognomonicks together, and how every one of them began to be felt by the Patient; for he must be well acquainted

* *Possem & innumeratas alias referre Historias: Sed iis qui Oculis rectis eas intuentur, quas in medio adduximus satis esse poterunt: Ii vero qui Oculis praediti sunt perversissimis, non modo his contenti non erunt, sed neque eas videre aut audire aperiis atque integris & Oculis & Auribus poterunt,* Marc, Cornacchin, Met. in Pulv. Aegrot. 24.

with

with the Difference of thoſe Symptoms. Authors differ about the Original of this Diſeaſe. Some, as *Fracaſtorius* and *Leonicenus*, will have it to have been epidemical from its firſt Beginning, and that it had one common Cauſe, and that tho' many were indeed infected with it by Contact, yet many more were ſo without it; becauſe all Parts of *Europe* were infected with it almoſt at the ſame time. Others believe it to be a contagious Diſtemper, which has laſted above one hundred and fifty Years, without being therefore epidemick, but ſporadick. Many will have it to have been brought from *America*, where it is epidemick, whether from the Badneſs of their Waters, of their Air, or of their Food; and that the *Spaniards* did give it to the *French* at the Siege of *Naples* in the Year 1493 or 1494. Dr *Sydenham* affirms, that it came into *Europe* from the burning Climates of *Africa*. Some, laſtly, and theſe perhaps think moſt juſtly, affirm, that this Scourge was produc'd from the Commerce of ſeveral Men with the ſame Woman; that ſeveral illuſtrious Perſons, Kings, and Emperors, *&c.* have heretofore been afflicted with it. That the ſpirituous Sperms of different Men, being diſplay'd by the Heat of both Sexes, fall into ſuch violent Ferment, that they looſe their Texture; and being thus mix'd together, turn into a kind of Poiſon of a particular Nature: So that if ſeveral young Men in perfect Health ſhould have to do with the ſame young Woman, tho' as ſound and healthy as they, yet they would after a while find themſelves infected with this Diſeaſe. This Conjecture ſeems more plauſible than any thing that has hitherto been advanc'd concerning the Original of this Diſeaſe. A violent cholerick Paſſion ſo alters the Texture of the Blood, that it becomes one of the moſt incurable Poiſons; and Hiſtory tells us of Men who having been bitten by a Man in the Tranſport of Anger, have become furious, and died raving mad; and why may not the Sperm contract, by a vitiated Ferment, the Character of a Poiſon of a peculiar Species? The Effects it cauſes do ſufficiently ſhew that it conſiſts of a fixed Acid, nearly reſembling that of Vitriol,

II. All the Liquors which are carried through the Body by Circulation, are more or leſs infected with this vitriolick Venom, according to the Strength or Weakneſs of the Perſons Temper; It deſtroys the natural Texture, and introduces into it a Thickneſs, and corroſive Acrimony, which communicates it ſelf inſenſibly into the ſolid, the glandulous, carnoſe and nervous Parts; nay the very Bones are at length corroded by it: In a word, it ſhews it ſelf by ſo many different Symptoms, and ſuch cruel ones, that the very Soul partakes of it, and feels Variety of Pains. The only Principle of ſo many Evils is a ſmall Quantity of Poiſon, which infects only as a poiſon'd Breath; for what Quantity of Poiſon can a Viper communicate by biting? What doth a ſcabby Perſon communicate, or one that has the Small-Pox? Nevertheleſs that little Leaven doth ſo ſwell the whole Maſs of Blood, that it would be ſufficient to infect all Mankind; juſt as Light, which communicates it ſelf without any Diminution. The Character of this Poiſon is ſuch, that it turns into its own Nature all the Humours of the Body, inſomuch that both the Blood and Humours become, in their turn, a Poiſon equal to the firſt. If we ſeriouſly attend to the Symptoms of this cruel Diſeaſe, they will anſwer the Idea of a fix'd corroſive and predominant Acid. This Venom doth immediately inſinuate it ſelf into the Genitals, which are ſwell'd by the Heat of the Paſſion excited by an impetuous Orgaſmus of the Humours; which being once ceas'd, the Veſſels which were ſwell'd during the Time of Action, fall and contract themſelves again, by which they ſtop and retain the venemous Particles; theſe in their Abode attack the carnoſe Parts, where they cauſe Swellings and Inflammations; the Lympha which iſſues out of the Glands becomes inſpiſſated, and from thence virulent Gonorrhœas and Shankers are produc'd.

The Great-Pox ſhews it ſelf ſooner or later, according to the different Degrees of Acrimony in the *Venereal Virus*, and the ſtronger or loſer Texture of the Genitals; Puſtules begin to appear: A Liquor ſometimes of a greeniſh, ſometimes of a yellowiſh Colour, iſſues out: The Puſtules turn into Ulcers,

which

which daily become deeper, and more callous about the Borders: And the Excoriation of the Ulcers cauſe the Scalding of the Urine, and very often a Stoppage of it. All this while Nature ſtill endeavours to reſtore the corroded Parts, but nothing but a ſpongy Fleſh is form'd thereby, which ſoon ſtops the Paſſages of Urine. At length the Patient ſuffers intolerable Pains in the Genitals, and the Poiſon infuſes it ſelf into all the Humours, and begins to produce new Symptoms, ſuch as Wearineſs, Numneſs, flying Pains in the Head, ſometimes in one Part, ſometimes in another, the Face becomes of a livid, and ſometimes a greeniſh Paleneſs, with a Blueneſs under the Eyes, like that of a young Woman at certain Periods; the Face Swells, the Hands and Feet are extremely hot in Winter, an obſtinate Inſomny, and Reſtleſneſs all the Night, an extraordinary Lazineſs, and melancholy Sadneſs, do torment by turns thoſe miſerable Victims. The whole lymphatick Maſs inſenſibly thickens, the Groins are tormented with Tumours, and all the Glands are choak'd up with the inſpiſſated *Serum*; Scabs and Warts with a yellow Circle, not unlike that of the Pieces of a Honey-Comb, appear very plentifully, and this Yellowneſs is the chief and only Symptom by which we can diſcern the Pox from a Leproſy or Scurvy; for in every thing elſe they are alike. At length the Violence of the Pain increaſes to ſuch a Degree, that the Patient can no longer keep his Bed: The Bones are gnaw'd by the Acrimony of the coagulating Acid: They ſwell, and in time entirely rot, the other Parts of the Body are gnaw'd by phagedenick Ulcers, eſpecially the Glands of the Palate, and the Cartilage of the Noſe, which ſometimes is quite broken by them. When the OEſophagus is ruin'd by thoſe Ulcers, it leaves a ſtrange and very diſagreeable Hoarſneſs, no ſooner are the Glands and the Pores periſh'd, but the Hair begins to fall off, and the miſerable Patient goes ſtooping and ſtaggering, and groaning with Anguiſh, and is reduc'd to a meer Skeleton. Who can deny but all theſe Symptoms are convincing Proofs that the Diſeaſe is caus'd by a powerful fix'd Acid, nearly reſembling that of Vitriol?

III. Now

III. Now this pernicious Salt, the fatal Cauſe of ſo many dreadful Symptoms, may be expell'd by ſafer and more agreeable Means than that of Salivation, which can't deliver the Patient but by the Help of two others, *viz.* Bathing, and light Broths, or a moiſt Diet, by which the Coagulation of the Blood and Humours, caus'd by that Salt, muſt be broken and diſſolv'd; and unleſs the Patient be thus diſpos'd, all the Force of the Mercury will be hinder'd and broke, by the too ſtrong Coagulation of the Humours; and the Phyſician will find it very difficult to overcome the Stubbornneſs of the Diſtemper, and be forc'd to uſe ſeveral Ounces of Mercury, whereas if the Patient has been prepar'd by ſuch refreſhing Broths, *&c.* ſome Drachms of it will be ſufficient to raiſe a Salivation, when ſeveral Ounces will hardly effect it without ſuch a Preparation. This is the phyſical *Modus* by which this ſtubborn Coagulation is form'd: The Blood is eſſentially of the ſame Nature with Milk: The more powerful the Salt is, which turns the Milk, the ſtronger Coagulation it cauſes; But the Venereal Acid is very like that which turns Milk; it thickens the Blood by little and little, and by degrees imprints its Nature and Character into it; hence it happens that the Blood, which before was very pure, doth in time become a Poiſon capable of infecting, as well as that was, by which it ſelf was infected. The thing happens mechanically thus; the Venereal Poiſon being infus'd into the Blood, doth cauſe there by degrees a vitiated Ferment, which terminates, like all other Fermentations, in a ſtrong Coagulation. The volatile Salts of the Blood at firſt reſiſt for a while, and keep the Sulphurs of it in a kind of Fuſion, by the Rapidity of their Motion; and as long as this Motion laſts, ſo long will the Perſon continue in Health, and is not as yet ſenſible of any Alteration within him, neither doth he in the leaſt ſuſpect his having ſuch a cruel Enemy lodg'd in his Boſom. In the mean while the Sulphurs of the Blood do by little and little, and by degrees, loſe their Motion, and coagulate, and the volatile Salts move more ſlowly; 'tis then that the firſt Aſſaults of the Diſeaſe begin to ſpoil the natural Functions, and to cauſe a great Heavineſs, a continual Drowzineſs and Sleepineſs, an

invincible Lazineſs and Wearineſs, which are as the Forerunners of this terrible Diſtemper: The Blood being grown very thick, circulates with Difficulty, and the Ferment, it labours under, entirely breaks its Texture, as well as that of all other Humours; or to expreſs it better, their Texture is, as it were, torn into Pieces or Clods, and diſſolv'd into a ſharp burning *Serum*. Immediately the ſharp Edges of the fixed Salts, which are predominant in the Blood, do gnaw its Principles by their great Acrimony, and ſoon after fall foul upon the Fleſh and Bones. The Clods which were caus'd by the Coagulation of the Blood, ſettle themſelves in the Pores of the Skin, and there cauſe unſightly Scabs; after which thoſe fixed Acids gnaw the Fibres of the Skin: Then follow very dreadful callous Ulcers, the Bones are likewiſe gnaw'd with a kind of *Aqua Fortis*, their Fibres, tho' never ſo firm and hard before, yield at laſt to the Activity of the Poiſon, and are deſtroy'd; and, in a word, the whole Body falls into Rottenneſs.

IV. Nature has contriv'd ſeveral Ways to purge the Blood of its Impurities, *viz.* the Reins and the inteſtinal Glands. It will not be improper here to explain more fully this laſt Way of Evacuation, in order to undeceive thoſe which think any other more uſeful and beneficial than this, and prefer that which is made by the Reins, by Sweat, and by the ſalivary Veſſels, to that which is made by the Bowels. *Peyerius* was the firſt that diſcover'd the inteſtinal Glands, and their Offices, which he ſays, is to furniſh the *Chyle* with a *Lympha* to dilute it. He farther affirms, that it is from this Spring that the great Quantity of Matter which is voided by Purgatives comes. Others deny it, on account of the Unlikelihood there is that a Spring which appears ſo ſmall ſhould afford ſuch Quantity of Humours; but they are certainly miſtaken, as we ſhall ſoon make it appear. *Sanctorius* has demonſtrated, that the Evacuation which is made through the Skin, and call'd inſenſible Perſpiration, compar'd to that which is made by the Bowels, is as one to ten; *i. e.* if in twenty four Hours this laſt amounts to four Ounces, ſix Drachms, and twenty four Grains; the other, *viz.* by Perſpiration, will amount

amount to forty eight Ounces. And here 'tis to be obſerv'd, that the Evacuation which is made by the Bowels is vaſtly different from that which is made by their Glands. The Fabrick of the Skin is very like that of the Entrails, for in both the Microſcope diſcovers an innumerable Quantity of Glands; but in order to a more plentiful Excretion by the Bowels, Nature has thrown a vaſt Quantity of ſanguinary Veſſels upon their Tunick. The Surface of the Bowels, compar'd to that of the Skin, doth above doubly exceed it; but becauſe there are fewer Glands in the Entrails than in the Skin, we may ſuppoſe the Evacuation which is made through the Bowels, compar'd to that which is made through the Skin, to be as four to one. If, for inſtance, Perſpiration doth in one Hour evacuate forty eight Ounces, the Bowels will evacuate but twelve. Their Glands are much larger than thoſe of the Skin, which clearly ſhews that thoſe Glands are more than ſufficient for all natural and ordinary Evacuations: But the Lympha which is filtrated through thoſe Glands, is very far from being wholly precipitated and caſt out with the Excrements; it re-enters into the Maſs of the Chyle through the lacteal Veſſels, and from thence into the whole Maſs of Blood. Experience ſhews us, that when there is no Chyle to fill the lacteal Veins, they are found full of this Lympha; but when the Bowels are ſtimulated by any Purgative, they not only throw out the groſſer Excrements, but likewiſe all the Liquor that is filtrated by the Glands of the Bowels; and this Evacuation, thus procur'd by a Cathartick, is four times greater than the natural one. Purgatives have two Ways of operating, *viz.* by ſtimulating the Bowels, and giving the Blood a quicker Circulation; this is the Way that the more violent Sorts of Purgatives do operate. When they ſtimulate the inward Tunick of the Bowels, they not only force out of the Glands the Lympha that reſides in them, but likewiſe all other Humours; for as there is no Obſtacle in the Orifice of thoſe Glands, but they afford a freer and eaſier Paſſage than any other Way, the Blood runs thither with ſome Rapidity, and pretty much after the ſame manner as the *Serum* comes plentifully to the Place of the Skin, where a Bliſter has been apply'd.

apply'd. The more ſubtle Parts of a Cathartick haſten the Circulation of the Blood, by ſtimulating the inward Tunicks of the Veins and Arteries, and by diſſolving the Blood if it happens to be viſcous. The Heat which attends a ſtrong Purgative, the Vigorouſneſs, Fullneſs, and Rapidity of the Pulſe, are convincing Proofs that it operates in the manner we have been deſcribing. But in order to underſtand more fully what Quantity of Matter the Blood doth furniſh in Purges, when it is become more rapid by a Cathartick, it will be ſufficient to know, that according to the Calculation of ſome Moderns, the Meſſenterick Arteries carry into the Bowels every Hour four hundred Ounces of Blood, beſides that which ſome Branches of the Cœliac Artery bring thither. The natural and uſual Excretion which is made of it doth not amount to above twelve Scruples; but if the Purgative doth doubly increaſe the Rapidity of the Circulation of the Blood, this Excretion will amount to twenty four Scruples an Hour, and to thirty ſix Scruples if the Rapidity be trebly increas'd; for we then ſuppoſe, not without reaſon, that the Diameter of the Orifices of the Glands of the Bowels is double what it was, eſpecially if the Purge be ſtrong, for then the Excretion of thoſe Glands will amount to one hundred forty four Scruples every Hour; *i. e.* be twelve times greater than the natural ordinary one. To this you may add, that the Blood being diſſolv'd by the Purgative, doth furniſh ſtill more, by reaſon of the Facility which its Thinneſs gives it to part with its ſerous Parts. According to this Computation, in eight Hours, which is the Time of the Operation, about forty eight Ounces of Matter may come out of the inteſtinal Glands. The Evacuation of the Choler is likewiſe worth our Conſideration here. Some learned Anatomiſts affirm, that about two Drachms of it come from the Liver every Hour; which Quantity will be increas'd to ſix Drachms, if the Blood's Rapidity be trebled by the Purgative; hence comes that great Quantity of Choler which is brought away by Purges. Obſerve here, that the quicker and more abundantly the Choler flows, the more liquid it becomes. Not to reckon the pancreatick Juice, nor the groſſer Excrements,

we may, with reaſon, affirm, the Matter that is voided during the Operation of a Purge, to amount to four Pounds and half. But becauſe all the Veſſels contribute ſomething, and their Diameters are double their common Widenels, we may ſtill reckon this Quantity to be greater than we have calculated it. But if the Purge be ſtrong, and the Blood circulates with greater Rapidity than uſual, if the Veſſels are conſiderably dilated, this Excretion, which is made through the Glands, will be much greater than we have reckon'd it. The *Cholera Morbus*, caus'd by eating of early ripe Fruits, or by any other Crudity, is a pregnant Inſtance of it; the Quantity of Humours voided in this Sickneſs, being almoſt incredible, and the Quantity of Matter which is diſcharg'd, whether by a ſymptomatick or critical Evacuation, ſufficiently ſhews how much the Orifices of the Glands are capable of being dilated. What is voided by inſenſible Perſpiration, diſcharges it ſelf often by thoſe inteſtinal Glands, and then that Evacuation will be ten times greater than the uſual one which is made through thoſe very Glands: So neceſſary it is that thoſe Glands ſhould be always kept open'd, that whenever there happens any Obſtructions in them, there follows a mortal Conſtipation, or that which is call'd the Cœliack Diſeaſe, and the Bodies of thoſe who die of it ſufficiently demonſtrate ſuch Obſtructions. From all that has been ſaid, we may plainly ſee how uſeful the Operation of Purgatives is, to open the Orifices of the lacteal Veins, the inteſtinal Glands, thoſe of the Liver, Pancreas, and of the very Reins; and what Quantity of Matter may be diſcharg'd from them in the Space of about eight Hours, which is near the Time of the Purges operating; eſpecially when it attenuates the Blood by its moſt ſubtle Salts and Sulphurs.

Let us now examine the Ways of inſenſible Perſpiration, and thoſe of Salivation, and by ſuch an Examen we hope we ſhall be able to ſhew that there are other Ways to cure the Venereal Diſeaſe beſides that of Salivation, and that they are leſs dangerous and painful; and then to prove that they are at leaſt as ſafe and ſure, when the neceſſary Precautions have been taken.

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The whole Skin is nothing but a tendinous Net, consisting of three Kinds of Vessels, *viz.* Arteries, Veins, and Nerves: It abounds with numberless Glands call'd *Miliares*, interspers'd amongst those Vessels which are design'd for the Secretion and Discharge of the Matter of Sweat and Perspiration.

I cannot forbear adding some new Observations, to those I have already made, on the manner by which the Bowels free the Blood from any Impurities that might corrupt it. The Bowels (as we observ'd a little before) are cover'd with Veins and Arteries, which spread themselves over their inward Tunick, whence they extend themselves over the Tunick which is next under it, which is call'd *Carnose*. By means of so many Vessels, a greater Quantity of Blood is carried into the Bowels than is necessary for their Nourishment; 'tis this Blood that supplies the intestinal Glands with a peculiar Lympha, which serves to perfect the Chyle. This intestinal Juice, which is somewhat viscous, besides several other Uses we have already mention'd, serves to cover the inward Partitions of the Bowels, and to defend them from the Acrimony of the alimental Salts. When that Lympha has been filtrated by the glandulous Tunick of the Bowels, it falls into little Concavities, and thence into the great Channel of the Bowels, being assisted by the Motion of the nervous Fibres, which form the vesicular and vascular Web of the glandulous Tunick, which covers the inward Part of the Bowels; by this Motion of the nervous Fibres of the intestinal Glands, Purgatives are considerably increas'd, by the Irritation which they cause in them: the Glands strain and separate the Quantity of *Lympha* and *Serum* which are voided by Purgatives.

The third great Way of Evacuation is by Urine: When a Sweat ceases, or Perspiration abates, it is supply'd by the Reins; their Glands having Diameters large enough to receive the grossest Excrements of the Blood, which cannot get out through the Skin when its Pores are too strait.

As long as these general Ways of Excretion freely perform their Function, so long a Man continues in good Health, and

all manner of Diſeaſes, whether acute or chronick, may be cur'd, and the Leproſy, Hypocondria, Scurvy or any other obſtinate Diſeaſe, will be maſter'd at laſt. Why then ſhould the Pox alone be able to reſiſt all thoſe means which Nature has appointed for our Relief? This cruel Diſeaſe as ſtubborn as it is would at length yield to an obſtinate and well follow-ed Method. Let but a Phyſician follow exactly the ſame Laws as Nature doth, and he'll ſoon be convinc'd. When one undertakes to cure a Patient of the Pox by Salivation, it takes up thirty, forty, fifty days, and ſometimes more, to perfect the Cure by this Way. Let us ſpend that Time in deſtroying his Matter by Perſperation, by Sweat or Stool, according as the Phyſician finds it neceſſary to uſe one or more of theſe Ways. The good Succeſs which has attended my Remedy, will I hope encourage the improving and perfecting of this new Method, which is free from the terrible Danger of Salivation. Let the Humours be made fluid by bathing, and by a cooling and moiſtening Dyet, and they'll be ſoon diveſt-ed of their Poiſon. A well contriv'd and well prepar'd Remedy will by degrees looſen the too ſtrong Contexture of the Blood, and reſtore it to its natural Fluidity. Fit and proper Diaphoretics, Diuretics and Cathartics, well and prudently manag'd, will at length undeceive the World that Salivation is not the only Remedy for that Diſeaſe, and that neither Mercury of it ſelf, nor Salivation, have any ſpecifick Virtue to cure it, its wonderful Effects being entirely mechanical. The whole Maſs of infected Blood, as great as it is, will be exhauſted in Twenty-five or Thirty Days by Salivation. The Quantity of *Saliva*, at leaſt for the firſt five or ſix Days, amounts to eight Pounds *per Diem*, ſo that the whole Maſs of Blood, which is pretended to be about Twenty-five Pounds, is entirely renew'd, and the new that ſucceeds it is much purer. It happens often however, that if any of the old Leaven, tho' in never ſo ſmall a Quantity, is left behind, the Scabs and other Symptoms, which by means of the Salivation had diſappear'd, *v. g.* in the Month of *May*, and will come again in the Month of *October*, which throws the Patients into a great Conſternation, but will fright none but an unſkilful Phy-

 ſician

ſician; for theſe venereal Relicks may be eaſily carry'd off by proper Purges.

From thoſe Principles we have been laying down, we may draw the following Conſequences: The Operation of a purging Salt, which laſts about eight Hours, will draw, in that Time from the inteſtinal Glands, three Pounds or Forty-eight Ounces of Lympha, which comes pretty near the proportion of eight Pounds of *Saliva*, voided by Salivation in Twenty-four Hours, during the firſt five or ſix Days. Let an able Phyſician excite and keep up likewiſe for five or ſix Days, the Excretion of the inteſtinal Glands, and he will carry off the Venereal Poiſon as ſurely, and with leſs Cruelty and Danger of the Patient's Life: This I am convinc'd of by the experience of ſeveral Years. Let but *Hippocrates* great Rules concerning Purgations be exactly follow'd, which is that in Order to purge well, you muſt make the Humour very Fluid, let this Fluidity be kept up, as long as there is a neceſſity for purging, and you will ſoon ſee, with admiration, how exactly the Succeſs anſwers to my reaſoning. Can we imagine that all theſe great Ways, which Nature has appointed to diſcharge the Blood both of its Superfluities, and of every thing elſe that may hurt it; ſhall be proper to carry off all ſorts of Diſeaſes incident to humane Nature, and that the Pox ſhall be the only one that muſt be excepted? There is ſomething ſo whymſical and ſhocking in ſuch a thought, that one can't forbear being ſurpriz'd at it, that during ſo many Ages, there ſhould not be one (as we know of, unleſs ſome wretched Mountebanks, whoſe Promiſes being always greater than their Knowledge, never fail to deceive thoſe who truſt themſelves in their Hands) that there ſhould be none (I ſay) who, having ſtudied the Motions and Operations of Nature, ſhould have applied himſelf to the Diſcovery of a new Method, and a Remedy that might free Mankind from ſo cruel a Diſeaſe, and ſuch as I flatter my ſelf after ſo many Tryals and Experiments of it, I have found, and which will be of greater Benefit to Mankind than the Diſcovery of the *Peruvian* Treaſures. But to return to the Conſequences we deſign'd to draw from our Principles. Who doth not know

that

that Mercury doth not always anſwer the Intention of the Surgeon? that it ſometimes works by Vomit, Stool, and Urine? we have ſeen Inſtances where the Patient has been anointed eight or nine Times without any Evacuation, and has nevertheleſs found himſelf cur'd, though he was not ſo much as perceiv'd to ſweat. Who can doubt but that the Mercury had drove the Venereal Poiſon out by Perſpiration, one of the greateſt and moſt important Evacuations, and of all others the moſt powerful. Let the Phyſician ſtudy to what ſide his Patient's Temper inclines moſt, and follow the Motions of Nature, and he'll never fail of Succeſs, unleſs ſome other Inconvenience ſhould hinder it. If *v. g.* after he has tho'ro'ly ſtudied his Patient, he ſuppoſes the Diſeaſe to proceed from too thick and groſs a Lympha what ſhould hinder him, from trying to carry it off by Urine, which is the Way through which the groſſer Impurities of the Blood are commonly diſcharg'd. If he finds that the venereal Poiſon is ſubtle enough to penetrate into the Pores of the Skin, let him follow that Way, and, if it fails, that of Stools. I can teſtify with great Truth that the Remedy I have happily found out, doth ſo exactly anſwer the different Tempers of the Patients, *i. e.* their different Diſpoſitions, that it will work one Way rather than another, inſomuch that the greateſt Doctors have been amaz'd at it, and would not believe it till they had ſeen it with their Eyes, and adminſter'd it with their Hands.

V. The common Method of Salivating expoſes the poor Patients to ſuch cruel Sufferings, that if they knew the Severity of it, many of them would rather chuſe to die of the Diſeaſe, than undergo ſuch an excruciating Medecine, and no doubt but the Diſcovery of another is of great ſervice to the Publick. Though if all thoſe who undergo this terrible torment were cur'd by it, there would be ſome Cauſe of Comfort. But this is buying Health at a dear rate; what will not ſome People undergo, to put of the laſt Hour?

But how many periſh under the Operation of Mercury? and among thoſe who eſcape, how many remain Lame or Maim'd and ſickly? is it poſſible that amongſt ſo many great

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Genius's who study Physick, there should not be one that dares make off the Yoke of Custom? but being as scrupulous in Physick, as they are in Matters of Religion, they make it a piece of Conscience to innovate or alter any thing, which their Precedecessors have left them. The *Americans* are ignorant of the Use of Mercury, they only use the Barks of their Trees and yet they are not one whit the worse cur'd by them. Mercury neither is nor can be us'd in hot Climes, their Perspiration is so plentiful that it carries off both the Humours, and the Particles of the Mercury, which are extremely small, round, and consequently very light and volatile; though they are very heavy when reunited: thence it happens they cannot, either by their natural weight, nor the Rapidity with which they are carried, break the parts of the viscous coagulated Blood, because they going too soon out of the Body, have not Time to circulate within the Substance of the Humours, in order to break their Viscosity, by often rubbing against them. But some will say, why should we depart from a Method which has been confirm'd by the Experience of some hundreds of Years? Salivation by Mercury, though painful and hazardous, is nevertheless the only sure and efficacious Remedy that has been known hitherto. I grant it: but are not the Torments it causes, the Inconveniences it is lyable to, the Danger to which it exposes Man, sufficient Motives to induce those who study the publick good, to seek for more sure and safe Means, and such as may not be subject to any such Inconveniences, but to remove all doubt in this Matter, let us examine the Mechanical Operation of Salivation.

It must be observed, as we hinted before, that one must use several Drachms, nay some Ounces in the Ointment, with which the Patient is rubb'd, unless the texture of the Blood has been loosen'd, *&c.* whereas two, or at most three, Drachms will suffice after such bathings. The Coagulations being thus to a certain degree dissolv'd, offer themselves at all the Emctuntories of the Body; but none being capable of receiving them, by reason of the smallness of their Diameters, the Salivary Vessels alone, whose Orifices are near as big as that of a Goose's Quill, can admit them, neither can

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even they afford them a Paſſage, after ten or twelve Days Salivation, becauſe the Serum of the Blood is all gone by that Time, and what remains is ſo thick, that it choaks up the Paſſages, inſomuch that the Patient is in danger of his Life; that is of being ſtrangled, if he is not preſently help'd by Bleeding or Vomiting. We have likewiſe obſerv'd that Mercury doth not always work by Salivation, but that it ſometimes works by ſome other Way, though it equally cures the Patient. But what may be the reaſon of this diverſity, why ſhould not Mercury have ſtill the ſame Effects conſtantly? 'tis this very diverſity which induc'd me to believe, that the Venereal Poiſon could be driven out by other Ways, then that of Salivation. The Mechanical Reaſon of this Variety of Operations ſeems preciſely to conſiſt in the Conſtitution of the Liquors; for when they have not been diſſolv'd by Baths and humectants, they can find no Paſſage but through the Salivary Veſſels; whoſe Diameters are the largeſt of all excretory Veſſells; but when thoſe Liquors are more fluid, whether becauſe the Venereal Poiſon is not very powerful, (for ſome is very ſtrong and ſome is very weak.) or becauſe they have been well prepar'd and diſſolv'd; they may then force their Way out by ſweat, perſpiration or the Inteſtinal Glands; and (if they ſhould be ſtill too thick) by the Glands of the Reins, which, next to the Salival Veſſels, admit the groſſeſt matters. The main Buſineſs therefore is to know the Nature of the Venereal Poiſon, and to take up ſome Time in preparing the Humours, and in finding out which Way will be the eaſieſt open'd to the Diſeaſe, and in finding out proper Means to maintain the Evacuation we have procured, and to keep it near as long as the Experience we have acquir'd from Salivations, tells us Nature requires to free it ſelf from this Poiſon; now this ſpace is that very one which is neceſſary to make the whole or very near the whole Maſs of Blood paſs through the ſalival Veſſels. Let the ſame thing be done through other Paſſages, more directly and univerſally ordain'd by Nature for the purification of the Blood, and Men will ſucceed better; provided the Remedy which is us'd, be gentle, active, and penetrating enough, ſo that we

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need not fear the dreadful Inconveniences of Mercury; for after all it was mere chance that brought Salivation into Use. *Carpi* a Physician of *Bologna* in *Italy* had a Patient who had a terrible Ulcer in his Leg, which he could not be cur'd by any means, because the Pox had caus'd it; at length the Doctor call'd to Mind that some *Arabian* Author had recommended Mercury as proper to cure those Ulcers which had resisted all other Remedies; and having try'd it, he rais'd a Salivation in his Patient, which cur'd him both of his Ulcer and Disease. Is it possible that a Discovery which was owing to mere hazard should be so universally receiv'd, and that Physicians should have no more Compassion on their Patients, than to expose them to such Tortures? but we are by long Experiences assur'd, that the Remedy we have discover'd, far from torturing them in that terrible manner that Mercury doth, cures both Safety and agreeably.

The most intelligent Chymists agree that God has enclos'd great and singular Vertues in Minerals and Mettals, and has granted the knowledge of them to the curious, but will not suffer the discovery of them to be made, without great Labour and Industry. 'Tis at that Price, the Shell that contains such Treasures must be broken, and 'tis at that Price that so many precious Remedies have been drawn from those prolifick, but hidden Springs. Nothing but indefatigable Labour, and profound Meditation can discover these great truths so useful and beneficial to Mankind. And I do protest with all imaginable Sincerity, that it has cost me infinite Labours, and very considerable Expences, and I should think my self happy to sacrifice both to the Publick, if they could reap from it all the Benefit which I am confident they might. But my design here is only to give them an account of what I have done for several Years for their good. Having apply'd my self chiefly to Venereal Diseases, I aim'd at two principal things, *viz.* to examine, with all the attention I was capable of, the Nature of that Disease; and then to find out some Remedy less cruel then that which has been so long in Vogue. And after I had had a vast Number of Patients under my Care, and read the best Authors on the Subject, I was perswaded

that the Nature of the Diſtemper did eſſentially conſiſt in a too fix'd Vitrioline, and corroſive Acid, (for Time alone makes it become cauſtic) that this Acid thickens all the Liquors, and is the Cauſe of moſt deadly Obſtructions, which, by little and little, do terribly alter, and at length totally deſtroy the animal functions. Theſe were my firſt Steps, and the Fruits of my Studies and Obſervations; and I do frankly own that I continued a good while at this paſs; neither Books nor common Practice offering any other Remedy but Salivation rais'd by Mercury. But the horrid Conſequences, which do but too often attend this Remedy, made me look upon it as worſe than the very Diſeaſe. I then fell to reading of ſeveral Chymical Treatiſes, but without Succeſs, my deſire was to find out a very active and penetrating Remedy, a great diſſolvent, ſuch as might be able to unglew the Blood and Humours, and to reſtore it to its natural Liquidity, to clear the Glands of the Flegm that choaks them up, and gently irritate the Membranes of the Nerves, the Tunick of the Bowels, the tendinous net of the *Cutis*, the Glands of the Reins, in a Word to reſtore the Blood into its due Circulation in Order to promote a right Secretion and Excretion, and by that Means reſtore the Patient. I had the good Fortune to find it at laſt. It operates variouſly, according to the different diſpoſitions of the Patients; it ſometimes works every Way at once, and ſometimes but one, generally ſpeaking it purges with all the Gentleneſs imaginable, it works likewiſe very plentifully by Perſpiration, and ſometimes by Urine. It has quite and clean taken away old *Nodes* and *Exoſtoſes*, which had either eluded the common Method of Salivation or having diſappear'd for a while, had return'd again with greater Fierceneſs. I could produce Crouds of Witneſſes to the Truth of theſe Facts, if the Nature of the Diſeaſe did not lay an indiſpenſible Obligation on the Phyſician to be ſecret and ſilent; but as I never did any thing which could make me unworthy of Belief, I hope I ſhall be credited when I proteſt I have affirm'd nothing but what is true; and whoever ſhall think fit to try me, I ſhall gladly accept any opportunity that ſhall be offer'd. This is the only Way I have of gaining Belief,

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I am oblig'd to preſerve the Reputation as well as ſpare the Modeſty of thoſe Perſons, who have honour'd me with their Confidence. Thoſe that have a Mind to be ocular Witneſſes of ſuch a Tryal, will be ſatisfy'd, that never Remedy had a gentler Operation, nor freer from the excrutiating Pains, and fatal Conſequences, which attend the Uſe of Mercury. But as it is not an eaſy Thing preſently to overcome the Jealouſy and Miſtruſt of a People which is more knowing here, than they are in all the reſt of the Kingdom, I am willing they ſhould take up as much Time as they pleaſe, in tracing the Patients I have cur'd: and if they find the Remedy was only palliative, as my Enemies have ſometimes, tho' without Reaſon, given out, I ſhall patiently bear the puniſhment of my Raſhneſs, and be content to paſs for a Cheat. If it was proper, I could produce numberleſs Patients, who have been cur'd by my Remedy above five Years ago, and ſtill continue in good Health. Therefore there are more ſafe, ſure, and at the ſame Time, more gentle and leſs dangerous Ways of curing the Venereal Diſeaſe, than Salivation.

I forgot, in ſpeaking of Mineral Waters, to acquaint the Reader that the new diſcover'd Waters of *Paſſy* are very beneficial in Chronick Diſeaſes having ſeen many inſtances of their excellent Vertue. Thoſe of *Abbecourt* are likewiſe very good.

A Relation of ſome extraordinary Cures, not Venereal.

THE good or ill State of Health of the fair Sex depends chiefly on their regular or irregular evacuation, which ought to happen every Month; ſuch an extraordinary Inſtance of this fell in my Way, that I hope the Publick will be pleas'd with an Account of it: I confeſs I ſhould never have thought of publiſhing it, if ſome Perſons of Conſideration and Merit had not required it of me. I receiv'd a ſecret Joy from the Cure I perform'd, but ſuch as could not alone have determin'd me to make it known to the World, if my Reluctancy had

not been overcome by the Authority of those to whom I can refuse nothing. I shall let my Enemies alone to make what Construction they please upon it, but I solemnly protest that nothing but the publick good did move me thereto; neither can I believe they will doubt of the Truth of the Fact, which has had such a considerable Number of ocular Witnesses, whom I shall name by and by, and who are very great Masters of their Profession, and too penetrating and experienc'd to be deceiv'd in a Matter of this Nature, though none of these Qualifications are here requir'd, their Eyes being sufficient Judges. In the greatest Part of inward Diseases, whose Effects are indeed evident, but whose Causes are hidden and perceivable only by the most consummate Physicians, both in Theory and Practice, the World seldom attributes the Honour of the Cure to the Physician; but 'tis the Patient's Constitution, the Strength of his Nature, his Youth, and the like, that have wrought the Miracle; but no such Thing can be pretended here, Nature having been left seven Years to it self, to recover, if it could, the Patient. Nothing seem'd wanting in her; she was young and pretty strong, her Passions very moderate, and her Constitution excellent, since it held out seven long Years. No doubt but there was some secret Impediments, which eluded all the Effects of Nature, and requir'd the help of Art; from this Instance the World may draw a very necessary and important inference to many poor Patients, who think themselves incurable, because they have been pronounc'd such, by some Ignorant but impudent peremptory Blockheads, whose Confidence often costs very dear to poor credulous Patients, who give themselves up to be cruelly cut and mangled by these rash Pretenders, who either send them out of the World, or leave them to groan out the rest of their Lives in Misery and Torment; whereas had they but been wise enough to have rejected their blind pernicious Councels, and to have sought for advice from the Fountain Head *i. e.* Physick, and consequently from the most experienc'd Physicians, they might have preserv'd their Lives and Limbs, or at least would not have been expos'd to see themselves cut and torn and murther'd by a lingering Death,

(if

(if I may so call it) How many Instances of this might I produce in this populous City? His Highness the Regent had lost an Arm, and perhaps his Life, if there had not been a *Chirac* to have sav'd him. How many poor private Persons have been lam'd or butcher'd by the Fire and Steel of too Confident Operators? After they have once given their Judgment, there is no more to be said or done, they have spoken, the Thing is decided, and the most knowing and experienc'd Physicians must yield to them in this kind. There is no other Hopes, they ingross all the Knowledge, Counsel, Method, and the dreadful Operation to themselves, a degree of Pride which has cost so many Peoples Lives, and ought to be severely punish'd in a well govern'd City. The Examples I am going to produce sufficiently prove that what I have said is but too true; and the Obstinacy of the Patient we are speaking of, who would never consent that her Leg should be cut off, was the thing that saved both it and perhaps her Life to boot. Let not therefore the World be alarm'd at the severe Decisions of these Minos's and Radamanthus's; for very often these evils prove incurable through the ill management of those who are employ'd about them, but often likewise they are only such in the Judgment of ignorant Pretenders, with which this great City of *Paris* doth swarm. In order therefore to put it into the Power of those, who may doubt of the truth of this Relation, to satisfy themselves about it, I shall put them in a Way of doing it.

The sixth Day of *May* 1722, I was call'd upon to see Mrs. *Briarly* living in *Mazarine-street*, a Gentlewoman of about twenty Years and six Months of Age, whose Father was an *English* Gentleman of the Bed-chamber to the Pretender. She complain'd of a violent Pain in her Side, attended with great difficulty of Breathing, an Inclination to Vomit, and an excessive Pain in her Head; I found her lying upon her right Side, her Body bent double; I begg'd of her to turn to me, but she told me she could not alter her Situation, and that she had been forc'd to lye on that Side above seven Years; I was mov'd at her miserable condition, and ask'd her all the proper questions. In answer to which she gave me the following

following Account, which ſhe will be ready to atteſt to all who ſhall be deſirous to be ſatisfy'd of the Fact. She told me that when ſhe was fourteen Years of Age her Months were ſtopt by Reaſon of ſome Grief, that the firſt Day of *January* 1715, ſhe was taken with a violent Fever attended with violent Pains in her Head; Dr. *Gavern* and Dr. *Gautier*, the former of whom was firſt Phyſician to Queen *Mary*, and the latter Phyſician to the Hoſpital of *St. Germain en Laye*, came to viſit her; they both agreed that ſhe ſhould be blooded in the Foot, which was perform'd by Mr. *Richards*, Surgeon, living at *St. Germain*. Cupping, Scarifying, Fumigations, Vomits, Glyſters, Hyſterick Potions, *&c.* were all preſcrib'd, and adminiſtred without any Succeſs; all her Nerves fell into Convulſions, which caus'd a general Diſorder in all the animal Functions, and oblig'd the two Phyſicians to order that ſhe ſhould be bled at the Foot once a Month; her Head-ach continued as violent as ever, in ſpight of all the above mention'd Remedies, which ſeem'd rather to increaſe her Pain: Her Convulſions continued, and her Arms and Legs contracted, and fell into a perfect Atrophy. The two Doctors left her in this miſerable Condition, in which ſhe continued full eight Months; Dr. *Goutard* the King's Phyſician, ſaw her in that Caſe, which made him pronounce her a dead Woman, without heſitation. He would not ſo much as preſcribe her the leaſt thing; I was told it by the Patient and her Relations. After eight Months were elaps'd, Mr. *Richards* ſaw her again, and by a regular Courſe of living, ſhe by degrees free'd herſelf from her Miſery; both her Arms came to themſelves again, and her right Leg ſtretch'd it ſelf out inſenſibly to its natural Length, but the left never could be reſtor'd, it remained bent cloſe to the Thigh, the Heel, as it were fix'd to the Buttock, and grew ſo lean, that it ſeem'd perfectly wither'd, and did not ſeem to be the one fourth part of the Diameter of the other. And ſuch a terrible Anchyloſis fell into her Thigh, but more ſpecially in her Knee, that the Leg was not able to move in the leaſt. Dr. *Gautier* and Mr. *Richards* try'd all the proper Remedies to recover it, but all in vain, at laſt they reſolv'd upon a Conſultation,

ſultation, in which it was concluded that the Leg muſt be cut off; the whole Apparatus was got ready the next Day in order to perform the Operation, but the Patient alone was againſt it, and rather choſe to lead thenceforth a Life which is eaſier to be imagin'd, than deſcrib'd, every Minute of it being attended with continue Pains and Torments which kept her in that Condition, and forc'd her to lie continually on the ſame Side, the Space of ſeven Years, without being able to ſtrive or try, unleſs it were with the greateſt Pain, to ſhift her Poſture but for one Moment, when ſhe was oblig'd to keep her Bed. This is what I learn'd from her the ſixth of *May* 1722.

Having given the Reader this plain and true Account of the matter, I can't believe that any Body can doubt of the Fact, I had all the Circumſtances of it from the Patient's own Mouth, and I have too many Witneſſes of the Fact, to dare impoſe upon the World; but the moſt unexceptionable Witneſs, was the Condition of the Patients Leg, the Situation of which has been ſeen and examin'd by ſeveral Doctors of the Faculty of *Paris*, by ſome at one Time, by others at other Times; ſome have ſeen it when it was ſtill, as it were glued on to the Buttock, others when it begun to be looſen'd, others have ſeen it level with the other, and others have ſeen the Patient upon her Legs and ſtand upon the one or the other indifferently, and make a Curtefy; others laſtly have ſeen the Play and Motion of the Knee, and the Patient walk ſome Steps: the firſt that ſaw the Leg ſaw it wither'd, the Bones only cover'd with Skin, and the laſt have ſeen it fleſhy and of the ſame Bigneſs, and in as good Caſe as the other. Theſe are Facts which cannot be meerly pretended, but I ſhall name all the Witneſſes of them at the End of this Relation.

This Fact is ſo extraordinary, that it well deſerves to be narrowly examin'd. I may affirm that I have read a great many of the beſt Practical Books of Phyſick, but that I never met with any Caſe like it, much leſs did I ever meet with any ſuch Facts in all my Practice, or ever heard the moſt experienc'd Phyſicians mention any like it.

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In order to form a juſt Idea of this terrible Diſeaſe, we muſt examine ſeveral Matters; the firſt is, what caus'd the ſuppreſſion of her Months, *viz.* Grief; the ſecond is the Nature of the Diſeaſe and in what it conſiſts. Thirdly, The Nature of the Effects it produced, *viz.* Firſt, an irritation of the Nerves, and the Muſculous Parts of the Sinews themſelves of the Thigh. And Laſtly, as a Conſequence of the others, it caus'd an Atrophy in the whole Leg.

As to the firſt nothing is ſo ſure as the Impreſſion, good or bad, which our Paſſions make in our Bodies, and at the ſame Time nothing more difficult then the Phyſical Explication of it: it would be two abſtruſe a queſtion here how a ſpiritual Subſtance can by its different ſenſations, cauſe ſuch various Motions in the Solid or Liquid Parts of our Bodies. This is a truth of Senſe and Experience, for which we can give no other Reaſon, then the will of the great Creator, and in the ſuppoſition of this Fact, which is actually true, we can Account for it no other Way but that it is the Order of the ſupreme Author. How do ſome Paſſions ſuch as Anger, Joy, Love, &c. accelerate the Motions of the Humours, and facilitate their Secretions? on the contrary, Terrour, Fear, Dread, Grief, and the like, how do they abate the Motion of thoſe very Humours, and ſuppreſs their Secretions and Excretions? to decide one of theſe two contrary Propoſitions, is to decide both; and the Effects of the Paſſions are ſo well known that we are ſeldom ſuppriz'd at a Woman's falling in Labour or miſcarrying by Reaſon of ſome violent Paſſion, or that that the Child ſhould have ſome mark of that Paſſion; nurſes ſubject to Fright or Anger, do give their nurſe Children the Epitepſy.

Some reputable Writers * are of Opinion that the bite of a Man in Anger, is venemous and even Mortal; on the contrary Joy or moderate Anger will cure a Cachexy, provoke the Terms in Women that had it before with Difficulty; a violent paſſion has ſometimes cur'd the Palſy, † a ſudden fright has ſtopt dangerous Hemorages, and cur'd quartan and other

* Zacutus, Lusit, Penerol, Cels. † Valeriola Horſtius.

obſtinate

obſtinate Agues, and even Madneſs. Let us ſuppoſe a very true Principle, that every thing in our Bodies keeps a Mathematical Regularity, that the Quantity of the Liquid is exactly anſwerable to the Diameter of the Veſſels that contain them, that the Reciprocal elaſtick Force and Exploſion of the Fibres is the Mathematical Ratio of their circular Motion, with that of the inteſtine Liquors; that thoſe Liquors have an elaſtic Motion and Exploſion, as well as the Fibres of which the Veſſels conſiſt; that this elaſtic Motion of the Veſſels is of an exact Proportion, not only with the Weight of the Liquors, but likewiſe with their Velocity: the whole being thus diſpos'd with the greateſt and moſt perfect Exactneſs, the Functions of the Body are perform'd with a certain Harmony, which if nothing obſtructed, Man would be immortal, or at leaſt would live vaſtly longer than he doth. But how many things do obſtruct this perfect Connexion of the Liquids with the Solids? ſome of which are foreign, and ſome moſt intimate, I mean the Paſſion of the Soul, over which Man of himſelf has but little Command; and we may reaſonably ſuppoſe, that it was the Loſs of this Empire over our ſelves and our Paſſions, which made him, of immortal to become mortal, ſeeing nothing diſturbs more the Harmony of the Parts of our Bodies than the Violence of our Paſſions: Some have died ſuddenly thro' Exceſs of Joy, others thro' Exceſs of Anger. If we make a little Attention on the various Characters of the Paſſions, we ſhall, I believe, eaſily perceive that chearful Paſſions, ſuch as Love, do in a ſingular manner influence the Liquids, the Blood, Choler, *&c.* and cauſe them to become more brisk, active, and impetuous; and the Effects which follow them are of the ſame Nature; and that the Paſſions of Sorrow, Fear, Grief, *&c.* do particularly influence the ſolid Parts, *i. e.* the Veſſels that contain thoſe Liquors. Every one of them works more or leſs to the Deſtruction of the whole Fabrick, but more eſpecially when they are moved to the laſt Degree. It would be impoſſible for humane Bodies to hold out long againſt ſuch powerful Enemies, if the divine Wiſdom had not remedy'd it by placing all over the Body, with an admirable Providence and Sagacity, proper Means of defending his Handy-work againſt thoſe Enemies which ſo powerfully

ſtrive to deſtroy it. The Effects of a violent Paſſion demonſtrate the Truth of this; a Man mov'd to exceſſive Anger becomes pale, no doubt, becauſe the Courſe of the Blood towards the Head is ſlackened; which is done by the Help of the little Nerves which are twin'd about the Blood-veſſels, which fall into Convulſions, and preſs and ſqueeze them ſo, as to leſſen conſiderably their Diameter; ſo that there is but a ſmall Quantity of Blood that can paſs into the Head to refreſh it; and this throws the angry Perſon into an Apoplexy. This however doth ſometimes happen, but we will not inſiſt upon ſuch inſtances as theſe which are exceptions to the Rule, but ſpeak of thoſe which commonly happen. In the following of this Idea let us examine the Effect of that Paſſion which we call Sorrow; in a grievous, melancholy, and laſting Sadneſs, not only the Face, but the whole Body becomes Pale, the functions become languiſhing, their Strength and Motion abate, the Body ſinks under its own Weight, looſes its Plumpneſs, and becomes a living Skeleton; and why all this, but becauſe Melancholy Paſſions have their chief Empire over the ſolid parts, the Nerves, and nervous Parts which form the Veſſels? and as theſe Nerves which wind about them ſuffer a perpetual contraction, ſo likewiſe the nervous Parts of which they conſiſt, are always contracted. The Diameter of the Veſſels being thus ſqueez'd, hinder the neceſſary quantity of Blood from paſſing, and the whole Body not being ſufficiently ſupply'd with Moiſture and Nouriſhment, the Functions ceaſe by Degrees, and from this Diſorder an infinite Multitude of Diſeaſes are produc'd. The Tyrannical Effects of Sorrow are immediately felt in the Stomach, which is one of the moſt nervous Parts of the Body, out of which comes an imperfect Chyle incapable of producing good Blood, becauſe there can be no aſſimilation. The Matrix in Women, as nervous at leaſt as the Stomach, ſuffers the ſame, and its functions are equally obſtructed with thoſe of the Stomach. The Arteries which ſhould be always full, as it is neceſſary they ſhould in ſuch overflowings, do ſcarce ſupply it with ſuch a Quantity of Blood as is ſufficient for its Nouriſhment. It is therefore no Wonder if that Part doth

no longer pay the Monthly Tribute, which Nature requires; and in this manner we conceive Grief to cauſe a Ceſſation of it; and thus it was ſuppreſs'd in the Patient we are ſpeaking of. Let us now trace the Circumſtances, and ſee by what Mechaniſm the Monthly Evacuations being ſtopt, do cauſe ſuch grievous Diſorders; or, which is the ſame thing, let us examine the Nature of the Diſeaſe it ſelf, which is the ſecond thing I have made the following reflection upon: but in order to argue with ſome certainty, let us lay down ſome certain Principles as a Foundation of our reaſoning.

'Tis certain the Paſſions, but ſpecially Grief, do immediately affect the Stomach, becauſe it ſeems more immediately to ſeize upon the Nerves, than the gayer Paſſions, and that there is in the Stomach a parcel of the moſt conſiderable Nerves call'd the *Plexus Nervoſus*. The Patient looſes his Appetite, becauſe preſently after he is ſeiz'd with Grief, he feels a Bitterneſs, Dryneſs, and Thirſt in the Mouth, and ſoon after is tormented with Acid and Squamiſh Crudities and Flatulencies, Tenſions in the Hypocondria, and all other Symptoms which prove a vitiated Chyle; and if any Diſeaſe follows it will not be cur'd till the Cauſe be taken away, or if it ſeems to be cur'd, it will appear ſoon after in another Shape. The Chyle being thus become Acid, Viſcous, and Glutinous, is apt to cauſe any kind of Diſeaſe inſenſibly: The Blood and Liquors it affords become of the ſame Nature with it, and the Secretions and Excretions as well as Perſpiration, are every where obſtructed. For whilſt theſe are duly perform'd, it proves the Spring and Fountain of Health; and of all Diſeaſes, when they are obſtructed or totally ſuppreſs'd; which ſeldom happens, and perhaps never but in an incurable Dropſie.

From this Principle we may eaſily underſtand how the Thickneſs of the Blood hinders it, on the one hand, from flowing freely in the Capillary Veſſels of the Matrix which are ſubſervient to thoſe periodical Excretions; and how on the other Hand, the Nerves being continually contracted by the irritation which is cauſed by the Acidity of the Juices they contain, cloſe up the Diameter of the Blood Veſſels

which they ſurround, and thereby hinder the Circulation of the Liquids. The Harmony which ought to be between the liquid and the ſolid Parts being thus diſorder'd and broken, we need not wonder at the numberleſs Diſeaſes, which the ſuppreſſion of the Courſes is capable of cauſing, ſuch as Tumours, Abceſſes, Ulcers, and Inflammations in the Matrix, and Gangreens which are always attended with Death, or elſe they diſperſe themſelves all over the Body, and produce different kinds of Feavers, the green Sickneſs, Jaundice, *Leucophlegmatia*, a general Loathing of all kind of Meats, Vomiting of Blood, an *Aſcite Dropſy*, Faintings, an obſtinate Cough, difficulty of breathing, Palpitations of the Heart, a deep Melancholy which is ſometimes attended with Deſpair, the Head-ach, Madneſs, Gout, and ſometimes a fatal Complication of Diſeaſes, as it happen'd to our Patient here. She had likewiſe a violent Feaver, and ſuch an obſtinate Delirium, that though ſhe was bled in the Foot ſeventeen Times within the ſpace of a Month, it could not abate the Fierceneſs of it. The terrible Convulſions that follow'd did, no doubt, give ſome Intermiſſion to her Feaver, but it was curing a great Evil by a greater. We have endeavour'd to give a Mechanical Account of the Origine of thoſe Convulſions, which had contracted the Arms and Legs of our Patient.

There remains, that we ſhould offer ſome plauſible Reaſons for her Feaver and Delirium, which laſted eight Months.

The Delirium ſeems the moſt difficult to account for; 'tis the third thing I propoſe to explain. We have already ſaid enough to give the Reader an Idea of the Irritation of the Nerves by the Sourneſs of the ſtimulating Juices, and believe he doth by this time ſufficiently underſtand how the Liquors being overcharg'd with a too fix'd, coagulated, or at leaſt inſpiſſated acid, have choak'd up the Nerves, Muſcles, and muſculous Parts, and all thoſe Parts which ſerve to the Secretions and Excretions. Our next Buſineſs ſeems to be, to explain the Feaver and Delirium of the Patient, and the Atrophy of the Leg.

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In order to make our Notion understood as much as poſſible, we reaſonably ſuppoſe, that all the Parts of the Body have an exact Conſonance among themſelves, like that of the Strings of a Violin. Every body knows, that when the Strings of two Violins are ſcrew'd up to a perfect Uniſon, you cannot ſtrike the one, but the other will vibrate and reſound, tho' it be not touch'd. I am much inclin'd to believe that it is the ſame with our Bodies, where all the nervous Parts being ſtretch'd to an Uniſon, do anſwer to one another with a mathematical Exactneſs, and the ſhaking of one of them doth move all the reſt, whether it has been caus'd by ſome outward Object, or by the expreſs Will of the Soul. There is perhaps no better way to explain this Phænomenon, which, tho' very common, yet is a kind of Miracle, eſpecially to thoſe who know how to admire it. We have known a *Bernardine* Monk, *(Dom. Turquois)* an eminent Preacher, and learned Divine, to rehearſe, without knowing what he did, during a Delirium which laſted ſeveral Weeks, all the Sermons he had preach'd, tho' the Delirium was too violent to ſuffer the Soul to make the leaſt Attention to it. A greater Philoſopher than I am might perhaps find it an eaſy matter to frame a very compact and learned Syſtem from this Idea of the Conſonancy of the Parts, to account for all our Senſations, as well outward as inward. A Lawyer, who compos'd a ſmall Treatiſe about the Memory, has come very near to this Notion, he only wanted a little more Inſight into the Anatomy of human Bodies.

And if it be true, that the whole Mechaniſm, both of the Memory, and all other Senſations, is founded upon the Play of the nervous Fibres, and that the Order of our Ideas (I mean thoſe only which are rais'd in the Soul, by reaſon of ſome Motion of the Body) depends upon the Diſpoſition, which the Stops, *v. g.* of a Harpſicord keep among themſelves, *i. e.* upon the Order and Connection which the nervous Fibres keep with reſpect to one another; it will be likewiſe true, that whilſt this Order ſubſiſts in its Perfection, ſo long will the Motions of the Fibres be regular, and the Soul will receive the moſt perfect Intelligence from them, and form her

her Ideas without any Confuſion. And in this conſiſts the Difference between a Man of Senſe, and a Fool or Madman. If this Order is diſturb'd, and the Fibres be ſtopt, the Man will become a Fool or a Dunce; if they be wither'd, and don't anſwer the Irritations which the nervous Juice doth cauſe in them, the Man looſes his Memory, which is the Caſe of old People: If they are too much and too violently irritated, they over-power the Soul with ſo many Ideas and Images, that ſhe is not able to put them in Order, by reaſon of their Multitude, the Quickneſs in which they preſent themſelves, and the Vehemency with which they ſtrike her; all theſe things cauſe ſuch a Confuſion in her, that ſhe loſes her diſcerning Faculty, and the Command ſhe had over the Tongue, ſo that it now expreſſes, without Order or Connection, thoſe Ideas which the Diſorder and Extravagance of the Senſes had form'd: This is what I conceive to be the Cauſe of the Delirium of Perſons in a high Feaver.

The nervous Fibres being diſorder'd by acrimonious Liquids, the Soul is infected with the Diſorder; ſo that it is no longer difficult to account for the Feaver, which ſeiz'd our Patient ſo violently, that no Remedy could remove it; after what we have ſaid concerning the Thickneſs of the Liquids, and the Suppreſſion of the Courſes occaſion'd by it; the Difficulty of Breathing and Stirring, and the Interruption of almoſt all the Functions at the coming of an Ague Fit, do ſufficiently demonſtrate that the Diſeaſe conſiſts in the Thickneſs of the Liquors, which diſturb their Motion. We need except none but peſtilential Feavers, where the Liquors are diſſolv'd and too rarify'd, their Texture totally deſtroy'd by the Acrimony of the ſubtle Poiſon infus'd into the Blood, and this Feaver is only a Symptom of the Plague, which ought not to come into the Definition of a Feaver, ſeeing it doth not belong to its Eſſence: The Functions do periſh, as well as in thoſe Feavers which proceed from the Thickneſs of the Liquids, but after another manner; the ſharp Particles of the Poiſon having corroded the Texture of the Liquors, it ſpreads it ſelf over all the Membranes and Nerves, which ſuffer a continual Contraction, by too cloſely ſqueezing all the Parts to the Compoſition

ſition of which they belong, and about which they twine. The Action of each Part is diſturb'd, and the Juices they produce are no longer fit to anſwer the Ends which Nature had ordain'd them for. This Matter would require a fuller Diſſertation, but what I have ſaid will be ſufficient for the Matter in hand. I come now to explain the Atrophy of the Leg, which will not be difficult to account for from the Principles I have advanc'd. I am perſuaded that the Nerves are ordain'd by Nature to convey their nutricious Juices into every Part; if you cut a Nerve any where, that Part falls into an Atrophy; and if you cut an Artery where the Muſcle joins to it, it loſes its Motion. Such a prodigious Stoppage as was in our Patient's Leg and Thigh was more than ſufficient to choak up the Paſſage of the nutricious Juice of the Leg, and to wither it to the degree I found it, when I ſaw her firſt. The Day after my firſt Viſit I call'd M. *de Chirac*, firſt Phyſician to his Royal Highneſs the Regent, he ſaw and examin'd the Lady, and found her in the Condition here mention'd, and look'd upon her Caſe as incurable, and told me he much doubted the Succeſs of my Undertaking. The ſame Day I deſir'd Dr. *Boudin*, Chancellor of State, and firſt Phyſician to the *Infanta Queen*, to come and ſee my Patient, her Caſe being ſo extraordinary, who promis'd me to come the next Day, but was prevented by other Buſineſs. Dr. *Maloy*, Phyſician of the Faculty of *Paris*, and of the Royal Hoſpital of the Invalids, came out of Curioſity to ſee her. Dr. *André*, Profeſſor of Phyſick at the Royal College, ſaw her ſeveral times, as did likewiſe Dr. *Couttier*, Regent Doctor, and Dr. *Baſſet*, Phyſician to the late Duke of *Berry*. Alſo, Dr. *Fourneau*, another Regent Doctor, and *Monſieur Guerin*, an eminent Surgeon, ſaw her above a Year before I did. I could likewiſe name Meſſ. *Charras*, Father and Son, Apothecaries; but I fancy I have nam'd Witneſs more than enough to put the Fact beyond all Doubt. But after Dr. *de Chirac* had viſited her, I reſolv'd to adminiſter my Specific to her. Before ſhe had took it many Days, I was agreeably ſurpriz'd to find the Heel looſen it ſelf inſenſibly from the Buttock and Thigh, my Remedy working gently with her by Stool, by Sweat,

and

and Urine; and was so far from weakening the Patient, that her Strength increas'd daily. At the end of fifteen Days the Leg was entirely loosen'd from the Thigh, but it was not above half the Length of the other. I acquainted Dr. *de Chirac* with it, who resolv'd to see it with his own Eyes. We went both to the Patient, and he believ'd because he saw. He advis'd her to put a flat piece of Lead to that Shoe, adding still to the Weight of it, by degrees, till it came to a Pound and half, which succeeded very well. She began to lie on her left Side, which was more than she had done for seven Years before; and at the end of two Months the Leg came to its full Length, and she can now stand, and begins to take some Steps upon it. It would be impossible to impose upon so many learned Witnesses, but in this Case they need only to have their Eye-sight, and to be Men of Integrity.

A Relation of an extraordinary Disease, cur'd by the same SPECIFIC, *and attested by the Patient*

HAving been troubled with a strange and extraordinary Disease which lasted above three Years, and having had the most experienc'd Physicians, and most approv'd Remedies, without Success, I was at length, as the last Refuge, advis'd to try Doctor *Sigogne*, Physician to the *Swiss* Company of Guards to the King, by whom I was perfectly cur'd, contrary to the Expectation of those Physicians I had before consulted. And I believe my self oblig'd to give a true Account of it, for the publick Good, and to subscribe to it.

In 1718, I fell sick of a continued Feaver, attended with violent Pains in the lower Belly, which did shoot quite to the Penis and Testicles, and a perpetual Bubbling and Grumbling Noise in my Bowels, which sometimes came up to my Throat, like Water boiling apace. My Water was very crude and cover'd with little Bladders that would continue on the top above Twenty-four Hours. I lodg'd then at my Bro-

ther's

ther's an Apothecary in *Butcher's-ſtreet* in the Suburb of *St. Germain*, who was then gone into *England*. In the mean Time I was viſited by ſeveral eminent Phyſicians, who did all that could poſſibly be done to ſave my Life, which ſeemed to be in great Danger by Reaſon of ſeveral Relapſes I had within the Space of two Months. I went out at length about my Buſineſs, but did not find my ſelf throughly cured, for my Pains and Gripings came again from Time to Time, I voided Glears of a yellowiſh Colour, and was forc'd to keep my Chamber ſeveral Days together.

My Brother returning from *England*, I took again all the Medicines that could be thought proper for my Caſe; but they only aſſuag'd my Pains, without removing the Cauſe. I found an Opportunity of paſſing over into *England* with an *Engliſh* Lord, whom I had the Honour to teach *French*. My Brother adviſ'd me to it, hoping that the Change of Air, and croſſing the Sea, would do me good. I took his advice and found my ſelf ſomewhat better. I came back to *Paris* full of Hope, but it prov'd ſhort-liv'd: My Gripings, *&c.* return'd, and in 1720, towards the end of *October*, I was again ſeiz'd with a Feaver, attended with violent Pains in my Bowels, Teſticles, and at the extremity of the Penis, which was ſtiff and ſwell'd, and grown hard. Phyſicians were again called, and they order'd I ſhould be let Blood, a thing very much practis'd at *Paris*. They aſſuaged my Pain by the Quantity of Medicines I took; and at laſt recover'd me. At the end of two Months I was able to go abroad, but paſs'd the Winter moſt miſerably, being oblig'd to make uſe of a Hackney-coach, or Chair, not having Strength enough to go on Foot; and my Pains often returning, and I having no other Way to mitigate them but by taking ſome gentle Medicines to keep me looſe, having been very coſtive ever ſince the beginning of my Sickneſs. One would have thought that Purges would have been very proper to carry of thoſe Glears which gave me ſuch exceſſive Pains; I uſed them accordingly, but they rather increas'd the Pains, and flung me into a Feaver, my Bowels being become ſo tender, that the leaſt thing did exaſperate them, and, as the Phyſicians ſaid, would cauſe ſome

Inflammation in them. Glysters were likewise thought very proper, but they dar'd not order any purgative ones; for both in the taking and voiding of them, they caus'd the most violent Pains, and if they were simple ones they did not operate at all. At last, the Physicians were at their Wits end, not knowing what the Nature of my Disease was. I was order'd to make use of hot Baths, which I did for nine Days; I likewise us'd cooling Broaths, *Smith*'s Forge-water, the Waters of *Passy*, Chicken-broath, refreshing Diet-drinks, and a Course of Diet, which I observ'd for several Years, but without Success. They did not omit bleeding me at the Arms and Feet, and with Leeches in the Hemorroidal Veins, because I had been formerly troubled with the Piles. They opperated extremely well, and the Quantity of blackish Blood I voided gave me some Relief for a Time, but I fell ill again.

I had a Consultation of Physicians and Surgeons to examine whether there was not some Venereal Taint in my Distemper; but they all told me, to my Sorrow, that there was none at all; for, in the dismal Condition I was in, I could have wish'd my Disease had proceeded from thence, for then I could have hop'd for a Cure. However, I try'd sudorifick Ptisans, with the *Essentia Mercurialis* at the Spring and Fall, but I was forc'd to leave them off after some Days, for they threw me into a violent Feaver, and I was in Danger of an Inflammation in my Bowels. I was forc'd to be blooded again, and to try to get off this Accident; in a Word I spent above three Years without finding any Remedy for my Disease, which had weaken'd me to such a Degree, that the *signum virile* had quite forsook me; but this was not what grieved me, for Health being in my opinion, the greatest Pleasure of Life, one may easily enjoy it without the other, which is so often attended with such fatal Consequences, but specially to a Man of my (fifty) Years. I found my self therefore reduced to such a pass, that I knew not which Way to turn my self; the Art of the Physicians was exhausted, and the only Remedy they left me which was patience, which I was forced to use whether I would or not, and wait patiently for some

ſome fit of the Cholick, which would in all appearance ſend me to my long Home, a Journey which all Men are naturally willing to put off as long as they can. At length, do what I could, I was brought to the very Gates of Death, but as it pleaſed God, they were ſhut for me; to him be all the Praiſe.

In the Year 1722, in Lent, I found my ſelf ſomething worſe than Ordinary, I was nevertheleſs willing to go abroad: I took a Chair, becauſe a Coach ſhook me too much, and increas'd my Pain: after I had done ſome Buſineſs in the City, I went to my Brothers towards Noon having been took with a violent fit of the Cholick about ten of the Clock: I had a great reaching to Vomit, but nothing came up, though I ſtrain'd hard, and put my Finger in my Throat as far as I could; I reſolv'd to go home, to have my Bed warm'd, and to lie me down. About three of the Clock I was taken with a violent Shivering, and my Pains became ſo violent that I could no longer bear them, without crying out ſo loud, that the Neighbours heard me, five or ſix came to my help, my Brother was ſent for, a Phyſician is call'd, and I took ſeveral Potions, but ſtill my Pains encreas'd. I had ſeveral earthen pot-lids heated and clapt to my Belly, I laid upon them, till they burnt the Skin, but my Pains were ſo violent that I could not feel the Burning: I was ſwell'd and ready to be choak'd, and could void nothing either upwards or downwards; my Brother and ſome others ſtay'd all Night with me, and towards three of the Clock in the Morning they found me very cold towards the extreme Parts, and that the violence of the Pain had weaken'd me exceſſively. My Brother ſeeing the Danger I was in, gave me two Ounces of *Syrup* of *Diacodium* which did operate a little while after, aſſuag'd my Pains, and threw me into a Slumber; he did not leave me till ten of the Clock, to ſee whether my Pains would return when I came out of Sleep; and as good Luck would have it, they were very much aſſuag'd, I could ſpeak a little better, I took Care to order my Affairs both Spiritual and Temporal, I began to make Water more freely, but it was very red and oily, the Feaver continued very violent, my Pulſe beat high and quick, and my Brains were in great

Confuſion. At five of the Clock at Night my Phyſician order'd me to be let Blood in the Foot, which was done plentifully, and weaken'd me very much, and about eight at Night I grew light-headed; they order'd me ſome Emulſions and an Opiate, which a little calm'd me: they order'd me likewiſe ſome Glyſters, but I could neither take nor void them, without ſuffering very acute Pains; they dar'd not purge me for fear of exaſperating the Pains and encreaſing the Feaver, they apply'd Topicks to my Navel, and during the Space of Twenty-two Days, they dar'd not give me any thing but Apozems three or four Times a Day, with half an Ounce of Manna which looſen'd the Glears by little and little, which being grown hard did come out no bigger then lentils, and not without exceſſive Pains, and I was not in a Condition to go abroad till the Day before *Palm-Sunday*, though I was ſtill very weak, and far from being cur'd, for I relaps'd in leſs than twelve Days, on a *Wedneſday* at two in the Morning. I bore my Pains as well as I could, at ſeven I was willing to try to overcome it, being tir'd with ſtaying ſo long at home, I got into a Chair, and made a ſhift, notwithſtanding the great Pains I ſuffer'd, to give a Leſſon to ſome of my Scholars, about Noon I went to my Brother, to get ſome Relief from him, and be put in a Condition to ſeek for a Cure in *England*, ſince I could not find it at *Paris*. I was feveriſh, lookt yellow, and my Pains oblig'd me to hold my Hands upon my Belly, this gave ſome Uneaſineſs to ſome of my Friends which were then in my Brother's Shop; *M. De Sigogne* was one of them, who ſeeing me in that deplorable Condition, took me by the Hand, and told me he had a Mind to cure me, and that he knew my Diſeaſe, having ſeen me often, though I would not make Uſe of his Specific, the Operation of it apearing to me fabulous, and indeed one can ſcarce believe it, unleſs one has try'd it. My Brother who lov'd me entirely, and did earneſtly deſire my recovery, bid me in *Engliſh* to accept of his offer, and to ſtrike the Iron whilſt it was hot; that very Minute I went along with *M. de Sigogne* to his Houſe, he made me take his ſpecific Remedy, and order'd me to take ſome more at going to Bed, and

promis'd

promis'd me that my Pains would disappear in few Days, which they did almoſt totally that very Night, for I ſlept better then I had done for ſeveral Years, when I awak'd I had no Feaver but was well enough to go about my Buſineſs. He told me his ſpecific would make me ſweat four Hours a Day, and that I might chuſe the moſt convenient time, I choſe two of the Clock in the Morning, becauſe of my Buſineſs: I had a Nurſe that watch'd me, and I was order'd when I had a Mind to ſweat, to add a Blanket or a Night-gown to the Bed-cloaths, and to lie very quiet; the fifth Day after I had began to take his Specific, I began to ſweat, at two in the Morning, at firſt gently, but afterwards more abundantly, in ſo much that it went quite through my Feather-bed: but at the ſame Time the Sweats were ſo pleaſant that I fancied my ſelf in a Bath, the Sweat ran down my Head and Body, but without the leaſt heat either inward or outward, or any Thirſt or Unquietneſs; and I could ſometimes lie four Hours without ſtirring; I drank an Hour after I had began to ſweat a pint Bottle of his Water luke-warm'd at four draughts, one every quarter of an Hour, I got up at ſix in the Morning, and after having been well rubb'd, and ſhifted my ſelf, I found my ſelf refreſhed and hungry. I eat a bit of Bread, and drank two Glaſſes of good Burgundy, and went abroad on Foot, finding my Legs ſtronger than ordinary, and what ſurpriz'd me moſt as well as my Nurſe was, that when ſhe rubb'd me with warm Cloaths, I found my ſelf as cool as if I had juſt come out from bathing in ſome River. But the Reader will be ſtill more ſurpriz'd when he ſhall underſtand how agreeably this ſpecific operated, for contrary to all thoſe kinds of Remedies, which never fail to weaken the Patient, this gave me two gentle ſtools without any Griping, it made me piſs plentifully during the Sweat, or ſoon after, and much more than I had drank, and when I came out of the Sweat I found my ſelf more and more vigorous, and in a Condition to walk or leap as well as I could have done at the Age of Thirty. I who for ſeveral Years was quite out of Breath in getting up one pair of Stairs, and was ſo weak that I could not do even that without reſting and taking Breath three or four Times, in

leſs

less than a Fourt'night after my beginning to sweat, I found my self stronger and brisker than I was ten Years before. I continued sweating Fifty-two Days, having always a good Stomach, and during the whole Time of the Cure having had but some slight griping Pains here and there, which gave me little or no trouble.

I must not omit acquainting the Reader, that during three Years I have now and then voided some Glears like little Oysters, which the Physicians with all their Skill could not disperse whatever they did, whatever Remedies they prescrib'd, what Dyet soever I us'd could never remove the Cause. None but Dr. *de Sigogne* could ever effect it, I can safely and honestly affirm, that since I have began to use his Remedy, I have voided no Glear, he has dissolv'd them, and they have been carried off imperceptibly, without the help of any other Remedy but his Specific; being now no longer costive, but going as regularly to Stool as a Man in perfect good Health. Thanks be to God I am now very well, I eat and drink with as good an Appetite, as I did when I was young, and without any disturbance; in a word, I should think my self very ungrateful and unthankful, if I did not do him Justice by making this publick Acknowledgment of the Truth of the Fact before-related.

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FINIS.